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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

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SEPTEMBER, 1891.

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C: A. CUTTER, PAUL L. FORD, *Editors.*

THE article of Mr. Foster describing the "information desk" at the Providence Public Library, which we reprint in this issue of the JOURNAL, emphasizes a point which all connected with libraries have more or less appreciated. The timidity of the average person desiring information, and especially the stranger who comes to the library for the first time, is a factor in library administration which must be acknowledged and dealt with. However absurd it may seem to the profession, who know how fully such institutions are planned and operated to make contact and use by the public as easy as possible, it nevertheless remains true that many people never enter a library without a certain feeling of awe and shyness coming over them. Whether this is a survival from the old tradition which made readers no part of a library, a natural feeling of respect for the stored knowledge about them, or whether there is some atmosphere about such a place which produces these sensations, is a matter which, however interesting from a psychological standpoint, is not germane to the profession. But we have seen person after person enter a library, and, after a brief struggle with the card or printed catalog, leave the building without exchanging a word with any one, and have even seen them make no attempt to do this much, but merely linger for a time, as if without any purpose whatever. Yet whenever we have spoken to such people we have found they wanted a definite thing, and merely lacked the "sand" to make known their wants.

IF any librarian will stand at the delivery desk for a few moments he cannot fail to be struck with the timid manner of the larger part of the readers. We heard it asked once at the desk of the Boston Public Library, by an apparently educated person, if they "let the people see the books!" Yet at the time not less than 50 people were using books at the reference tables. In our *Humors and Blunders* a few months ago we recorded an actual experience of a person applying to the librarian for permission to use the card catalog! Few librarians can perhaps afford the luxury of a special person to attend to these people, nor would many be as fortunate in ob-

taining so competent a person as Mr. Foster has secured. But certainly much can be done towards relieving this library fright by merely posting a sign so as to show all where to apply for any information, and making it convey the impression that the library desires to give aid to all.

THE address by Col. Higginson on access to the shelves, which we print in this number, has been delayed long after the report of the meeting at which it was delivered by the press of announcements of the California meeting. But we are not sorry for the delay, because it now appears very opportunely just before the discussion of that subject, which is to be a leading feature of the San Francisco program. The two librarians whose liberality in opening their shelves to the public Col. Higginson cites and praises are themselves to describe and defend their practice. We hope that the result of the discussion will be the creation of a public opinion that will stand in the way of unnecessary restriction. Some restraint, some curtailment of liberty there must always be, varying in degree with the circumstances of the different libraries. But there is always a tendency when the inconveniences of freedom are felt, as they will be from time to time, to rush to the other extreme and draw the bonds too tight. Nothing can prevent this but a widespread and well-fortified conviction that access to the shelves is of great value and worth some sacrifice both of time and of money.

THIS is the last issue of the JOURNAL which will reach our subscribers before the starting of the A. L. A. excursion, and has been somewhat delayed in order that it might contain all possible additions and alterations in the itinerary and program. The success of the Convention from a literary standpoint is already an assured fact, and the features promised in the itinerary make it almost equally certain. Of all trips undertaken by the Association, this is not merely the least dependent upon weather, but has had the most elaborate preparation. The welcome the Pacific extends is as genial as their climate, and cannot fail to win the thanks and gratitude of all the profession, whether they are able to attend or otherwise.

## DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARIES.—II.

BY EDITH E. CLARKE, NEWBERRY LIBRARY, CHICAGO, ILL.

Of the two functions of a library, the passive hoarding of knowledge and the active, aggressive share it takes in its acquisition, the second is alone dear to me. Though I acquire with pleasure bibliographical gems and literary antiquities, it is not for the pride of possession, but for the word they bring to the student who is seeking self-realization for the race in the knowledge of its past. It is not as a museum but as a source of power that the library appeals to me. As a librarian I regard the earnest student, he who

"Scorns delights and lives laborious days"

that the world may become wiser and so, it is to be hoped, better, as my commander-in-chief, in whose campaigns I, a humble field-follower, delight to aid by subsidies and menial service. All are not privileged, like Moses, to hold in their hands the destinies of the armies of progress, but the staying of the hands of the prophets may as librarian be mine.

It is with this object in view that I have dwelt long and earnestly on the best means and methods to attain it. A good watch-dog will perform the duties of custodian satisfactorily for an antediluvian library, but a live librarian, working in the most perfect environment and with the best aids from shelf-pin to staff, can alone fulfil this higher conception of library work. From my earnest questioning for these ideal conditions came Chapter I on Departmental Libraries,\* a statement of a plan fulfilling these conditions, submitted for discussion before a class of learners. Neither there nor among the larger audience which it afterwards met in the columns of the LIBRARY JOURNAL did it meet any destructive criticism, nor did those able librarians whom I cited as sponsors to my scheme, and from whose writings I culled my precedents, disown their sanction to it. I am left to infer that library experts, seeing nothing vulnerable in the abstract plan, are willing to allow, if feasible, the demonstration of its merits by actual trial.

Two years more of work in students' libraries has given me no reason to change my mind about departmental arrangement, but has suggested many details, the modification of routine, the general plan of administration which such an arrangement makes necessary. It is this routine of administration, the details of management required to fill in the outlines sketched before and make a completed organic whole that I here submit, as before, for discussion, the plan of a tyro

willing to learn through criticism, and bold only in giving opinions, not in claiming for them originality nor superiority.

Chapter 1 was on the arrangement best suited to wants of readers, on the exterior relations of libraries, in which all, from the humblest reader to the man who gives his millions to found it, are interested. Chapter 2 is on the interior relations of the staff to each other, is strictly technical and not easy to be understood by the outsider. In its discussion, as before, we limit ourselves to those libraries of greater than ordinary proportions, and whose future points to permanency and constant growth with no size limit. This is the first characteristic, and the second is that it must be a students' library. Now the library list of 1887 gives only 14 libraries in the United States over 100,000 volumes, and of these 14 some 4 or 5 have an abnormal growth in the popular direction, fiction and juveniles; so while there is plenty of room to discuss the question of the management of this class of libraries, it not having been yet very fully exploited, still to only about 10 institutions in the country will it be a practical problem.

To most of my readers it will be a problem with whose solution they have nothing to do, a barren speculation. But in those isolated instances where a library, a students' library, is striding forward to those magnificent proportions which the students' libraries of the future are to have, and, barren of precedent, is carving out its own functions and environment in accordance with the requirements laid upon it, it is indeed a burning and vital question. The organization of such a library may be painfully and expensively evolved by experiment and chance, or by discussion and comparison of plans among experts a working order may be elaborated embodying the highest probability of success.

The patriarchal days are gone when each household was sufficient unto itself, grinding its own corn, weaving its own garments, limiting its wants to its own productions, and allowing all surplus to run to waste. Co operation and distribution of labor are the order of the day. If this is recognized among the common businesses so much the more should it be among libraries, which should lead in intelligent methods. Librarians have shown themselves alive to this in their schemes for co-operative cataloging and indexing, in arranging for differentiating and non-duplicating neighboring collections, as planned in the New York Library Club, and in other cities.

\* See LIBRARY JOURNAL, 1889, 14: 240.



Here is division of labor among different libraries. But when the number of employees becomes large, there must take place a division of labor in one library. This is the same necessity as in manufactories, railroads, and mercantile establishments, with this difference, that in the money-making concerns their very ends and motive of existence supply a sufficient argument for the most careful organization, and its financial success is a test of its efficiency, while in libraries results are so intangible, affecting their managers only from afar in their reputations or their conscience, never in their pockets, that the test of good or bad can be only the indefinite one of the satisfaction of the staff and the opinion of experts.

The problem stands thus: The students' library of the future is to be from one hundred thousand to one or two million books. Its function is to be aggressive over and above the mere hoarding and caring for the product of past activity. In order to do this, to act as a potent factor in the mental activity of its constituency, it must have a corps of earnest, able librarians, endued with the enthusiasm of the investigator and the self-sacrifice of the teacher. Given these elements to deal with, the problem under discussion is, how is this band of workers to be organized so that their efforts shall go straight to the end and achieve the maximum result with the minimum expenditure of effort?

The work in a library — I think all will follow me in this — falls naturally into three divisions: (1) the getting the books, (2) the disposal of them in adding them to the library, and (3) their distribution to readers; technically, the ordering, the cataloging and classifying, and the reference work. I believe I am not wrong in saying that these three main divisions are generally accepted among librarians as those into which the work naturally falls. In the small libraries all these functions are performed by one person. As the staff increases the departments above specified are instituted. As the duties and the staff increase in number, processes are divided up. The following are some of the distinct processes assigned to individuals: the copying of cards; the writing of class or shelf number on them; the distribution of cards in the catalog; the care of the pamphlets; the cataloging of all the continuations; the binding; the care of the duplicates, including making their catalog; the editing of the bulletin of additions and library news; the preparation of lists of books on special topics; the entry of books on the shelf-list; the ordering of the books; the procuring and

care of the supplies; the classifying of the books; the entry of new books in the accession catalog. These are some parts of library routine, culled disconnectedly here and there from different systems of administration, which may be differentiated in their execution; but they are only functionally, not organically independent. I must not be understood to say that they are autonomous, nor that any one of these processes can be carried on in entire independence nor otherwise than in strict co-ordination if not subordination to a general plan. It is their ranging, co-ordination, and distribution to individuals that we are considering in this paper.

Now I think that this ranging and distribution has generally grown up haphazard in most large libraries, and where the head that makes the plan is the one that distributes the details it is satisfactory. I have been much interested in tracing the development of the division of the work in the published annual lists of the staff of one library whose chief is an organizing genius. During five years' evolution first apparently great subdivision of labor with ostensibly utter disconnection of function, probably actually so closely directed by the organizing head that that one inspiration running through all branches of work produced uniformity. It resembled a worm, any of whose sections may be lopped off without stopping the wriggling of the remaining mass. As we go on, some of these parts, notably in the reference work, are lopped off. There is centralization in the catalog department, with increase in the number of helpers there; classification is placed in the cataloging department. The inspiring head withdraws himself, and the system, having "learned its limbs," goes alone. This is in accordance with what we know of the evolution of animate existence — first, an organized mass, in which every square inch performs all the processes in complete independence of other parts; second, localization of functions with necessary independence of all organs.

In accordance with physical growth, it would seem that this line of organization was a natural one, calculated to produce a stable system capable of further organization and subdivision along the same lines. But can a number of men be handled in quite the same manner as a mass of un sentient atoms? Can beings possessing will, intelligence, reasoning powers, be made of use without bringing into play those very capabilities? In short, does library work admit of being performed on the same lines as physical pro-

cesses, automatically, without separate volition, without knowledge of results nor of the plan nor of what other workers are about?

My contention is that it cannot be so performed; that the division I have described is wrong and along the wrong lines; that the old-fashioned way of each one doing a part of each kind of work was the best; finally, that when size necessitates subdivision it must be along the lines of subject classes, not of the kind of work.

This can be accomplished by dividing a library according to the grand divisions of science and confiding to certain members of the staff one or more of these classes with the running of its machinery. Each person will be expected to become a specialist in his department; to keep the run of the publications in that class, and bring to the notice of the order department new books desired and to remind them of deficiencies; to catalog and classify all books coming to that department; to direct the arrangement of it, and to assist special students in the use of the books under his charge. This implies a special room for the class, though not necessarily.

The accession-book, according to this scheme, the general card catalog, the main reading-room and circulation-desk, all the paraphernalia that go without saying for the working of a large library, are there as usual. What I am proposing is an added interior adytum, sacred to the few, a sanctum where the initiated taste the sweets of close communion with books, and share in the mystic rites of the inner temple of study. The cataloging which is done in these separate departments and the assignment of books as they come into the library to them will be supervised by a central management to preserve the balance between them.

My arguments for this arrangement, stated briefly, are as follows:

1. The librarian working in all branches of knowledge is insufficiently equipped for any, thus producing inferior work.
2. The librarian confined to a narrow round of routine duties is ignorant of the rest of the work, and his work suffers detriment so far as he does not comprehend the whole and his part in it.
3. This plan spurs on the lazy librarian.
4. Relieves the conscientious one.
5. Gives variety to routine work, thus producing better work.
6. Gives scope for diversity of taste and talent.
7. Attracts the best talent by its independence, variety, and specialization of interest.

8. Is adapted to the building of the future.

Let us consider these more in detail. 1. Insufficiency of knowledge produces inefficiency of work. The ordering librarian must be *au courant* with the publications in every branch of knowledge. He must be able to enumerate the standard authorities in them all, and make sure that there are no gaps on his shelves on any subject able to be supplied. He must know prices and understand subjects. He often allows a specialist outsider interested in the library to make out lists of books for him; how much better to have this done by the specialist in charge of that department.

The cataloger again covers the same ground or wider; encyclopedic knowledge with a broad view of the relations of different subjects to each other, the bibliographical history of books as well as their literary history must be known by him. Again the reference librarian must cover the same field. All branches equally, medicine and fine arts, cookery and transcendentalism, must be explored to satisfy an unrelenting and remorselessly interrogating public. When these functions are separated, the whole ground in its three divisions — viz.: (1) understanding of all branches of knowledge and their relation to each other, (2) literary history, or the knowledge of authors and the books they have written, (3) bibliography, or the acquaintance with the authorities on any subject and their comparative value — must be traversed by each one of three persons. When these three functions are united in one person and confined to one subject the course is run but once, and a shorter one at that. Breadth in treatment will be the result of this curtailing of length. It is impossible, as the cataloger turns constantly from one subject to another widely dissimilar to catch the little side-lights, the floating items of information, the stray bit of gossip which gathered by the wayside gives information which ponderous tomes withhold. Knowledge gained simply for use, like the journalist's hurried gleaming from reference-books and a cataloger's hasty glance into a bibliography, is superficial, and cannot be used without danger of gross errors. It should not take twenty years to make a good cataloger, and the only claim for it is in the immense range of subjects with which the unfortunate tyro is expected to become familiar. Given complete familiarity with the now more thoroughly exploited ground of catalog rules, with a keenly analytical, logical mind to perceive fine distinctions and a good memory to apply them consistently;

then with familiarity with one department of knowledge gained from the care of the books in that department, keeping watch of its growth and supplying its deficiencies, prompted by suggestions from the students who use it, and our beginner will speedily become an expert for that department. No matter how many rules and formulas may be tingling at his fingers' ends, nor how many years of experience he may have had with the vagaries and abnormalities which publishers put forth for the perfecting of the cataloger's soul through tribulation, in so far as he is not master of the subject he essays to catalog he will do poor work; viz., insufficiency of knowledges produces inefficiency of work.

2. Imperfect understanding of the whole system tends to unsatisfactory performance of any branch. The girl who tends the loom does not need to know all the processes; but that is mechanical. The reference librarian, on the contrary, must know how the catalog is made, or the public suffer. If the cataloger does not meet the public sufficiently to become acquainted with the catchwords by which they know this or that treatise or committee report, or to hear their protests against his pedantries and obstinate insistence on Mahomet's going to the mountain, the catalog becomes unadaptable. It takes many days for a tyro in a large library whose machinery is not all apparent to grasp the correlation which exists between order-list, accession-book, catalog, and shelf-list, so that at first he is constantly trying to make each one of these supply the whole. Unless there are meetings of the staff and constant consultation, any one doing exclusively one kind of work loses knowledge of what others are doing and of the relations of each part to the great whole, and so far as he does this his work is defective.

3. The care of a department spurs on the lazy librarian. Heaven deliver an ambitious librarian from an assistant who regards his position as a literary lounging ground or as a background to display his talents as an author; but if selfishness and unconscientiousness will invade the circle hallowed by the great dead whose zeal and devotion brought forth works meet for remembrance, let him be given a task where, working alone, results can be accurately measured, and where responsibility and pride will spur him on.

4. But to the conscientious, ambitious, now cruelly overtaxed librarian, let us inaugurate a respite from killing care and relief to aching brain. Librarianship has its martyrs as all pur-

suits have, and the coming century will see many more of them than the present if we do not remove the occasion, as we do not wish to check the spirit. Dark care at present embitters the life of the ardent library worker because mentally he is a "thing of shreds and patches." He is the modern Tantalus, constantly sipping at streams of knowledge which as constantly flow away from him. Superficially inquiring, smatteringly acquiring, his mental powers dwindle day by day. Power of concentration vanishes, abilities once not contemptible fail, he sees himself mentally a wreck, with only a few well-worn facts at his fingers' ends, and a spirit refined as by fire and fit for translation to a better land.

"Who aimeth at the sky

Shoots higher much than he who means a tree;"

but he who aims distractedly to cultivate an acquaintance with each member of the milky way will become lost somewhere in its lactic infinities, and if he ever finds himself it is likely to be in the land of limbo on a nearer planet. The librarian is ashamed not to know everything at a moment's notice, from the title of every book in the library to the answer to the prize question which the Queen of Sheba propounded to Solomon. This should not be so. Let us give him a specialty, and let it be understood that if he wants to know anything about another subject he is to ask his fellow-worker whose specialty that subject is. Let us make library science the specialty of all, then shall we be freed at once from the librarian who knows everything except library science and the admirable but short-lived librarian who knows library science, but lives in constant dread that he will be found out not to know everything else besides.

5. This plan gives variety to routine work. So few libraries have a staff large enough to permit division of work that I think few of my readers realize the strain it is to do one thing for seven or eight hours at a stretch, whether it be cataloging, writing up the accession-book, or analyzing books to classify them. The brain does not work so well and the health suffers. So far as I have observed the practice of allowing change of occupation by each assistant taking turns in each of the operations of the library work is adopted in most libraries of medium size. One of our most progressive and energetic young librarians, on taking charge of a students' library, made it a rule that no one should work more than two hours at a stretch on any branch of work, and was rewarded with intense devotion to the work and to herself. It is an accepted

maxim that change of employment constitutes rest, and if the mental strain and long hours of a librarian's work do not set up a claim to rest of this kind I am at a loss to know what work does.

6. This plan adapts itself to diversity of taste and talent. It is part of the success of every great leader of mankind that he knows how to put diverse talents to use in their proper sphere. Let our system be elastic enough to adapt itself to individuality and utilize personal gifts to the best advantage. An iron-bound system which cannot do this is worse than none.

7. The positions created by this arrangement will be the most desirable in the library profession. Its variety in kind of labor, its unity of interest, its independence, the opportunity it affords of intercourse with those pursuing the same line of study, combined with quiet investigation along one's own specialty, its freedom from rivalry, friction, or a desire to rise higher, all those in charge of departments being co-equal, only directed by the central administrative officers, the whole constitutes a most tempting prize,

and from the crowd of applicants the most unexceptionable can be chosen.

8. This system is designed for libraries whose proportions will demand a modification of the heretofore familiar plans of library structure. The future library will be either stacks or departments. The more expensive, yet vastly more useful, will be on the departmental system, and it is in accordance with the latter that this scheme is sketched.

But the principle which underlies the plan of library work which I have been here supporting and, I hope, elucidating, is of wider application than to those great students' libraries to which I have been here applying it. The division of work by subject rather than by processes can and, I hope, will by degrees be adopted in many libraries greatly differing from those under discussion. Much, I venture to think, will the lot of the library worker be brightened by the adoption of this plan rather than the more mechanical one of having each process performed by a separate worker, whose labors are restricted to that narrow field.

#### ACCESS TO THE SHELVES.\*

BY THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON.

I WISH to give it as my strong conviction, after half a century's familiarity with libraries of all kinds, that the great changes to be made in the libraries of the future lie in the direction not of the collection of books, but of their distribution. The problem of collection is now pretty well solved. Once set a library on its feet, and contributions will flow to it; money, books, pictures, treasures of all kinds. This is especially true if it be supported by the public and so administered that the whole community regards it as its possession. On this side only patience and labor are necessary; and the ordinary problems of administration, though difficult, present only the kind of difficulty which the American mind readily solves. The problem of the future is not, therefore, to collect the library or to administer it, in the ordinary sense, but to make it useful. This problem is far more difficult and needs higher qualities; for it needs the faith to put confidence in the people, and the far-seeing wisdom to exercise that confidence to the best advantage.

What renders it certain that this vaster problem will be solved is the fact that all the tendencies of the last half century have been urging us

that way. For fifty years I have seen the books of our larger libraries gradually emerging from their monastic seclusion, coming forth from their locked cases and their nun-like garb of brown, to meet human eye and human touch. What student near Boston has not revelled in the glorious liberty which you, Mr. President, have seen established in the Athenæum Library? Yet I can remember when, in its Pearl Street seclusion, the boldest youth would no more dare to take down a book in one of its alcoves than to adventure on a perilous flirtation with a Spanish nun. I can recall the time when no student ever personally handled a book in the Harvard College Library, for the most venerable or dingy volume was carefully swathed before it was handed to him in the customary suit of solemn brown. To-day there is a selected library of 4000 volumes — to be increased, I am told, to 20,000 whenever a new reading-room is erected — which every one of the two thousand students may use at will and practically unwatched, each personally taking down and handling any book.\* More than this, any

\* [An extract from an address before the Massachusetts Library Club. See 16: 144.—Eos.]

\* [In justice to the librarians of a past generation it should be said that at least forty years ago, and perhaps more, there was a collection of between 2000 and 3000 volumes in the old reading-room of Gore Hall put at the free disposition of the students and not covered.—Eos.]

student or any citizen engaged in special research can have free access to the "stack" itself, the main library, where there are multitudes of volumes practically irreplaceable, and where he may handle every one. The number obtaining this easy privilege amounts now to four or five hundred, including of course the instructors of the university; a number greater than the whole body of students in my own college days. Yet the audible complaints as to loss or mutilation of books seem to me less, not only comparatively but absolutely, than in the days when the books were almost hermetically sealed from those few.

What is the key to this change? It is a very simple one. "Suspicion," says Sir Philip Sidney, "is the way to lose that which we do fear to lose." A similar change has been going on in our public schools as to the treatment of buildings. Our Cambridge School Superintendent, Mr. Cogswell, lately told me that in looking through the early records of the school committee he was amazed to find how much of the time of that board was formerly taken up with efforts to protect the buildings from the pencils and the jack-knives of the pupils. We have now single buildings worth more than all the collected school-houses of those days; and yet, he says, the board has for years had no occasion to consider that subject for one moment. The better the building the higher the appeal to the child, the better the usage. It is the same with books. The librarian of a rural library told me that she was converted to the abolition of brown paper covers by noticing that the farmers put the uncovered books carefully under the wagon-seat for protection, but threw the covered books into the bottom of the wagon. It is so with the direct access to books. Nor will it avail to say that college students or Boston Athenæum stockholders are a picked class and that the people at large are less to be trusted. If there is a difference, the balance is the other way. Mr. Edward Capen, then librarian of the Boston Public Library, once told me, when some added restrictions were there proposed, that his judgment was wholly against them. He said: "The people who need watching, with us, are not the more ignorant public, those who have no place in their houses for a library and who do not wish to keep any book after reading it, but only to exchange it for another. Those who need watching," he said, "are the educated collectors, the men who have a gap in their own libraries to fill, or the specialists who have got at a rare bit of information and wish to monopolize it." Every librarian here understands this. In museums, I am told, there are visitors who could be trusted with a million dollars, but not with a rare fossil

or a unique beetle. Even in the mere usage of books, education and social position are no safeguard. I remember a much respected lawyer in this city thirty years ago, of whom it was said that he would, as De Quincey says of Wordsworth, cut the leaves of a new book with the same knife that had just spread his bread-and-butter.

It is safe to predict that the great changes which the next twenty years are to see in the management of free public libraries will be all in the direction of the freer handling of books by their rightful owners, the public. This it is, and not any increased strictness, which is to bring down the ratio of fiction to a reasonable amount; this it is which is to make the public library a really liberal education. But to accomplish these changes will cost the abandonment of many prejudices on the part of librarians and trustees; they must abolish brown paper; must abandon most of their locks and keys and make up their minds, if need be, that the loss of a few dollars will be amply repaid by the increased usefulness of the whole library. Our buildings will themselves be greatly modified. I already look with repentance on our new building at Cambridge, in which I had a hand; were it to be destroyed tomorrow, I would rebuild, had I the power, on a wholly different plan, following the magnificent example of the Columbus (Ohio) Library, where every alcove, excepting for the present fiction and "juveniles," is to be thrown open, as freely as the Boston Athenæum Library, to every resident of the city. It must never be forgotten, however, that the pioneer experiment was tried, not in the great city of Cleveland, but in the smaller manufacturing city of Pawtucket, R. I. For more than a year we have had in Cambridge in our reference library nearly two thousand books as freely to be handled by every comer over twelve years old as if they were in their own private libraries; and this without loss or injury of a book, except in one instance, which I believe to have been accidental. The collection includes not merely cyclopedias and dictionaries, but valuable illustrated works and the complete writings of such writers as Scott, Irving, Thackeray, and George Eliot. Had I my way and were the building expressly arranged for the purpose, I would have the main bulk of the library open with equal freedom; and I believe that this could be done, as at Cleveland, without extra expense or the employment of additional assistance. No matter if it could not. This is what we are to aim at and gradually approach. This and nothing short of this will be the Free Public Library of the Future.



## A BRIEF LIST IN POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE.

PREPARED BY R. R. BOWKER.

## GENERAL.

- ANDREWS. Institutes of economics. *Silver, Burdett & Co.*, '89, \$1.50.  
 BOWEN. Amer. political economy. *Scribner*, '85, \$2.50.  
 BOWKER. Economics for the people. *Harper*, '90, 75 c.  
 CARRY. Manual of social science. *Baird*, \$2.25.  
 DENSIOW. Principles of economic philosophy. *Cassell*, '88, \$1.50.  
 GUNTON. Principles of social economics. *Putnam*, '91, \$1.75.  
 PERRY. Principles of political economy. *Scribner*, '91, \$1.  
 WALKER. Political economy (Briefer course). *Holt*, '83, \$1.20.  
 MILL. Principles of political economy (abridged by Laughlin). *Appleton*, '84, \$3.50.  
 SMITH. Wealth of nations. *Putnam*.  
 BOWKER and ILES. Reader's guide to economic, social and political science. *Putnam*, '91, \$1.

## STUDY.

- LAUGHLIN. Study of political economy. *Appleton*, '85, \$1.  
 CONSA. Guide to study of political economy. *Macmillan*, '80, \$1.25.  
 WELLS. Recent economic changes. *Appleton*, '89, \$2.  
 INGRAM. Hist. of political economy. *Macmillan*, '88, \$1.50.

## LAND.

- GEORGE. Progress and poverty. *George*, '88, \$1.  
 WALKER. Land and its rent. *Little, B. & Co.*, '83, 75 c.  
 PROBYN, ed. Land tenure in various countries (Cobden Club essays). *Rev. ed. Cassell*, '81.

## LABOR.

- ELY. Labor movement in America. *Crowell*, '86, \$1.50.  
 WALKER. Wages question. *Holt*, '76, \$1.50.  
 BARNARD. Co-operation as a business. *Putnam*, '81, \$1.  
 ACKLAND and JONES. Workingmen co-operators. *Cassell*, '84, 40 c.

## MONEY.

- WALKER. Money. *Holt*, '78, \$4.  
 JEVONS. Money and the mechanism of exchange. *Appleton*, '79, \$1.75.  
 LAUGHLIN. Hist. of bi-metallicism in the U. S. *Appleton*, '85, \$2.25.

## TAXATION.

- ADAMS, comp. Tariff of '90. *Baker, Voorhis & Co.*, '90, \$2.  
 FURBER. Which? protection, free trade or revenue reform. *Park Pub. Co.*, '84, \$2.  
 TAUSIG. Tariff hist. of the U. S., 1789-1888. *Putnam*, '88, \$1.25.  
 THOMPSON. Hist. of protective tariff laws. *Hill & Harvey*, '88, \$2.

- ROBERTS. Government revenue. *Houghton, M. & Co.*, '84, \$1.50.  
 GEORGE. Protection or free trade? *George*, '87, \$1.50.  
 SHAW, ed. The national revenues. *McClurg*, '88, \$1.  
 ELY and FINLEY. Taxation in American states and cities. *Crowell*, '88, \$1.75.  
 CONSA. Taxation, annotated by Horace White. *Putnam*, '88, \$1.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE.

- RUS. How the other half lives. *Scribner*, '90, \$1.50.  
 STRONG. Our country. *Baker & Taylor Co.*, '89, 50 c.  
 SPENCER. Study of sociology. *Appleton*, '80, \$1.50.  
 GRAHAM. Socialism, new and old. *Appleton*, '91, \$1.75.  
 MILL. Socialism (also, Utilitarianism). *Belford, Clarke & Co.*, '79, \$1.25.  
 BONAR. Malthus and his work. *Harper*, '85, 25 c.  
 SMITH. Emigration and Immigration. *Scribner*, '90, \$1.50.  
 HANDBOOK for friendly visitors among the poor. *Charity Organization Soc.*, '85, 50 c.  
 WHITE. Improved dwellings for the laboring classes. *Putnam*, '79, 25 c.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE.

- ATKINSON. Study of politics. *Roberts*, '88, 50 c.  
 WILSON. The state. *Heath*, '89, \$2.  
 MAY. Democracy in Europe. *Armstrong*, '86, \$2.50.  
 ALTON. Among the lawmakers. *Scribner*, '86, \$2.50.  
 FISKE. Civil government in the U. S. *Houghton, M.*, \$1.  
 MACY. Our government. *Ginn*, '90, \$1.  
 NORDHOFF. Politics for young Americans. *Harper*, '77, \$1.  
 BEYCE. The American commonwealth. 2 v. *Macmillan*, '88, \$6.  
 CHAMBERLAIN. Constitutional history of the U. S. *Putnam*, '89, \$2.50.  
 STERN. Constitutional hist. of the U. S. *Rev. ed. Putnam*, '88, \$1.25.  
 FEDERALIST (The). *Putnam*, '88, \$2.  
 FISKE. American political ideas. *Harper*, '85, \$1.  
 FOSTER. References to the Constitution of the U. S. *Soc. for Political Education*, '91, 25 c.  
 — References to the history of presidential administrations, 1780-1885. *Soc. for Political Education*, '85, 25 c.  
 JOHNSTON. Hist. of Amer. politics. *Holt*, '90, 80 c.  
 MAY. Constitutional hist. of England, 1760-1860. 2 v. *Armstrong*, '85, \$2.50.  
 CLARKE. Civil service law. *Strouse*, '88, \$1.  
 SCHUYLER. American diplomacy. *Scribner*, '86, \$2.50.  
 DUCOUDRAY. Hist. of modern civilization. *Appleton*, '91, \$2.25.

## THE APOLOGIA OF THE MAIL-CLERK.

First let the mail be opened;  
 Inside and out with date  
 Be stamped and entered on the book,  
 And marked each duplicate.  
 For title-page examine;  
 Cull forth all index leaves;  
 But the number missing, like the sheep,  
 Most care of all receives.  
 Mem. date, address, and title  
 Of that prodigal astray,  
 And enter in the book the same,  
 Against the future day.  
 And when the happy hour arrives  
 That brings that lost one back,  
 Straight send it to the bindery,  
 That the volume may not lack.

This mail distribute now among  
 Some five examiners,  
 Two binders, and eight indexers,  
 And all that end in "er(r)s."  
 Find *why* a number did not come;  
*Why* at a given time;  
 And if for index not at hand  
 Discover *where* the crime;  
*Where* every number is just now,  
 And if exchange or free;  
 And fight all hands who ere all this  
 Would get that mail from me.  
 And still I fear in vain I rear  
 The pile of all this work,  
 Which is not for a "mail," at last,  
 But one poor *sem* de clerk.

SCIENTIFIC LIB., PATENT OFFICE, AUG. 5, 1891.



### THE INFORMATION DESK AT THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BY W. E. FOSTER.

*From the Providence Journal.*

VISITORS to the Boston Public Library have noticed for some years past in the Lower Hall an officer whose sole business it has been to supply special assistance to readers. Such a feature has long been recognized as a desideratum at the Public Library of our own city, and has several times been strongly urged by the librarian in his reports. The additional expense of an officer whose whole attention should be confined to the work indicated above has until recently, in view of the well-known painfully limited condition of its funds, stood in the way of taking such a step. At the recent annual meeting of the trustees, however, the recommendation as contained in the librarian's annual report, was adopted; and steps were at once taken to carry it into operation. Some important changes, partly in the way of reorganization of the staff, and partly in the way of construction of a special desk for that purpose, were rendered necessary, and a portion of this work of construction, in fact, has only just been completed. But the work, even under the necessary disadvantage of the temporary conditions, has been going on for several weeks, in fact, long enough to justify several times over the necessity for providing for it; and a few words as to the demands of this kind made upon the library will be of interest. Assistance of the kind referred to has indeed been supplied in a certain way, from the beginning—that is, so far as the time which the attendants could spare from their other duties left them free to render it. In the annual report of the librarian two years ago were printed several pages of questions of this kind presented during a single month, and the showing there made was representative of the use made throughout the year. There have, however, been two very important drawbacks to the usefulness of this method hitherto. In the first place, this scattering fire of applications for assistance has fallen upon library officers who had other routine duties which frequently required their attention just at the time when application was made. In the second place, so many of them have actually been received and attended to by different members of the library staff as to cause a quite appreciable and constantly increasing interference with the routine work. In view, therefore, of the actual retardation of the work in several departments of the library, owing to this cause, it has been really an act of economy to take this step.

In brief, the purposes which such a measure as this has in view are the answering of inquiries which require searching among the books on the shelves to answer; supplying a reader who is investigating some special topic with the various works bearing on that subject; assisting the researches of readers of various grades of profundity; guiding the readers who come simply to consult the several thousand works of reference in the reading-room, to find the right one; and even in instructing the younger and less experienced readers in the intelligent use of these ref-

erence-books; and in many instances also, when the book asked for is out, supplying another on the same subject, or showing the reader how to use the various catalogues, bulletins, etc., provided. Notwithstanding the utmost care taken to provide all helps of this kind which are needed, and, indeed, to adopt such an arrangement of them in their relation to each other as shall make them tell their own story, a failure on the part of readers to comprehend it all at a glance should not cause surprise. The principle recognized from the first has been that "asking questions" about details of this kind should be regarded as just as legitimate and natural on the part of the public as it is at a railway station, for instance. And yet, so modest is the average reader, and afraid of giving trouble, that the librarian is very sure that readers have sometimes wandered in and wandered out again without obtaining what was wanted for lack of assistance which would have been gladly rendered.

What is the nature of the questions with which readers apply at the Information Desk? The first and most striking characteristic to be noted is the comparative rarity of those which may be called trivial. Even the number of "prize questions," so called, which include sometimes inquiries more curious than useful, is overwhelmingly insignificant by comparison with those which show a serious intelligence on the part of the reader or some direct practical bearing on one's daily life or work. Representative instances during the last three weeks are inquiries for the exact text of the Direct Tax bill, a list of names of soldiers in the battle of Lexington, recent improvements in the telegraph, discussions of reciprocity, descriptions of Belleck ware, the law as to Presidential succession, the principles of the Farmers' Alliance, the heroes and myths of Wagner's operas, and the question of international copyright. As is natural, there is also a large and almost constant use by the pupils of the schools and the students in college, and also, to perhaps an equal degree, by the skilled artisans of our great manufacturing establishments, and not infrequently by manufacturers and designers in search of materials to be put to direct use in connection with their trade, and thus to exercise a direct impress on the development of our industries.

The question may arise, Does not such inquiry as this often reveal a lack on the part of the library of the very thing needed? The answer is that when this proves to be the case, the publication thus found to be a desideratum has thus far been sent for in every instance, and in nearly every instance at once added to the library. In those instances, moreover, where an inquirer has come at a time when the clerk assigned to the duty is not present—this work having been placed in charge of a member of the day force—the question is carefully taken down and answered by mail the next day by the clerk placed in charge of the matter.

There is little question that such work expands with the opportunity once furnished. When it was decided to establish this department it was arranged that the clerk in charge of it should be supplied with other work, to be

taken up in the intervals of this work. For the first few days this was entirely practicable, but it has more than once been the case since that a continuous stream of applications from morning to night has rendered it impossible to take up this other work provided.

Reference has already been made to the fact that, so modest is the average reader and so afraid of troubling some one, that, rather than ask for an explanation, he will sometimes do without needed assistance. One object which the writer has in view in bringing this matter to the notice of the *Journal's* readers is to impress on the minds of the public that they will find here, ready to assist them in every possible way, a practical guide to the resources of the library, who, to a skilled training in methods of research, adds a sympathetic interest in the widely varying wants of readers which will put them at their ease. No one who has not had the opportunity for observing can readily realize how highly specialized have become the kinds of inquiries which focus themselves upon a public library in a community like ours, nor how large a percentage of these inquiries are such as no catalogue, constructed on the most generously comprehensive scale, would be able fully to answer. No one of the various catalogues, bulletins or other appliances, which it is the library's aim to keep up, could be spared without loss, and yet they are in themselves inadequate without the personal assistance and guidance to be supplied by such an officer as this. The managers of the library, therefore, have the best of grounds for their belief when they estimate that, marked as have been the benefits of this library to the community thus far in its history, they have by this act rendered it capable of increasing that usefulness manyfold—a usefulness, in fact, the only limits to which will be the modesty of the readers in availing themselves of it, on the one hand, and their own lack of financial ability for meeting all the demands upon it, on the other.\*

#### WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 1891.

Portrait of Madame Carnot.  
Hydraulic press.  
Cardinal Alberoni.  
Farmers' Alliance.  
Reciprocity with Cuba.  
Application for the Arena.  
Russian artists and writers.  
On earnestness (school essay).  
History and production of wines.  
Charlotte Corday.  
Legislation on oleomargarine.  
On the need of holding a constitutional convention in R. I.  
Standard Oil Co.  
Municipal government.  
Volapük.  
Correspondence between Gen. Grant and Gen. Buckner.  
Shall Canada be annexed to the U. S.?  
Postmaster-General Wanamaker's report on government ownership of telegraphs.  
Silver question.  
U. S. and Canada.  
Criticisms on Faust.  
Spelling and spelling reform.  
Aluminium.  
Speculation.  
Mrs. Stanley (Dorothy Tennant).

[\* At the request of the *JOURNAL*, Mr. Foster has kindly permitted us to print the list of subjects on which information was asked at this desk for one week.—EDS.]

Methods of making and forming constitutions and by-laws.  
Greek art.  
Statistics of capital invested in New England.  
Oxford Univ.  
Japanese music and instruments.  
Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. An edition of the Latin text.  
Character of Indians.  
Gothic architecture.  
Death of King Philip.  
Subject for an essay given. "Excelsior."  
Society and the criminal classes.  
Glaciers.  
Strawberry culture.  
Ocklawaha River, Florida.  
Influence of government upon the people.  
Designs of the seal of the cities of U. S.  
Bismarck and his influence upon the Germans.  
Anæsthetics, ether, etc.  
W. C. Ralston, the California banker.  
Influence of forests upon the climate.  
Nationalism.  
The destruction of forests by man.  
List of admirals in the navy during the civil war.

#### THE TILDEN WILL.

*Conclusion of Mr. Carter's Argument in its Favor Before the Court of Appeals.*

Now, then, if your Honors please, I have gone over, so far as I have had strength, the principal grounds upon which the validity of this devise has been contested. They are, to my mind, unsubstantial in the extreme. Nothing but the circumstance that it seems to be impossible nowadays for a man to make any considerable disposition of property outside of the range of those who claim to be kindred by blood—nothing but the disposition to question bequests given to public objects—to take the chances of litigation, because so many of such contests have been successful—nothing, I say, but this practice, which has become too universal, would have ever induced any one to question the simple provisions of this will.

If I could persuade myself that this munificent bequest of Gov. Tilden, this beneficent design so constantly associated with his thoughts in the closing years of his life, stood in any sort of hazard, I should be affected with the deepest anxiety. The idea that a man cannot, when he comes to step from this mortal scene, or make his preparations for stepping from it, look about him and see what he can do with the wealth which fortune has been pleased to grant him, that he cannot do that without apprehension that somebody who has some connection with him, near or remote, by blood, will come into a court of justice and defeat all his beneficent intentions, is to me a circumstance of a most melancholy nature.

And that these people who contest this will, of all others, should be permitted to grasp this property! No near relations of the testator, with no near ties either of blood or affection, living upon his bounty while he was alive, taking a million from him when he died, and all without a word of gratitude! And even then they would not let him rear that monument to his name which was the dearest wish of his closing hours.

I take it that there is to be no decision here which will prevent—I am glad to believe that there is no doctrine of law which prevents—the full accomplishment of his benevolent purpose. I rejoice to believe that he will be permitted to

crown a life of usefulness, although a life of contention which excited many animosities, with an act of beneficence as to which no one of his fellow-citizens will feel any other sentiment than praise and applause.

#### LIBRARY WORK FOR WOMEN.

##### SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT.

BY MISS C. M. HEWINS.  
*From the Hartford Courant.*

How is a girl who has had no experience in library work to find a place? If she can afford to give two years to study, and is sure that she would rather be a librarian than anything else, she should send to the Library School at Albany for circulars.

She learns from them that each year's course lasts from October to June, that tuition is a hundred dollars a year, and board, on an average, seven dollars a week. A blank enclosed with the circulars asks searching questions concerning her previous education, disposition, health, and motives for undertaking library work. She learns, if she has not known before, that to be successful in her chosen profession she needs perfect health, a quick, alert mind, ability to adapt herself to all kinds of people, the power of analysis and comparison, a good memory, a knowledge of several languages—the more the better—familiarity with books of reference, and habits of system and order. The last qualifications are so important that the most distinguished librarian in the country has always asked, among other questions concerning a new applicant, "Does she keep her bureau drawers in order?"

If the candidate's answers and references are satisfactory, and she passes an examination designed to test her general intelligence and familiarity with standard books and current events, she is admitted to the school, where she is trained in modern methods of library work, the art of bookbuying, and many things besides. Some of the students, after the first year, take a place in a library for a year and then go back to the school to finish their course. Practical knowledge is as useful in the Library School as experience in teaching is to a normal school pupil.

The number of girls who, after they have left school or college, can afford the time or money for the school, which does not admit pupils under twenty years of age, is, of course, small, and the test questions and examinations are so searching that only the very best who offer themselves are admitted. The Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, has a class in cataloguing and library work, under the direction of the librarian, a graduate of the Library School. The terms, which are moderate, may be learned by sending to the institute for a circular. This year a class in library economy is working four hours a day through the five-weeks' course of the Amherst Summer School, under Mr. Fletcher, formerly of the Watkinson Library. The two morning hours are given to practice in library handwriting and cataloguing, the first part of the afternoon to a running commentary by Mr. Fletcher on Cutter's

Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue, with questions and discussion by the class, and the last to the elements of classification, and lessons on the use of the occasion, book and shelf lists, with talks on bookbuying, charging systems, reference-work, indexes, bibliography and miscellaneous detail. Five weeks of this work makes an applicant for a library position much more useful than if she were entirely untrained. Most of the class this year have had more or less experience in libraries. Several came from free libraries in Massachusetts or Connecticut towns, one has charge of a normal school library, another is in the law-book business in a Western city, two or three more have taken a course in cataloguing at the Pratt Institute, and one comes from a large New York library. The spirit of the class is like that of the Library School, full of earnestness and enthusiasm.

At least one librarian, when a person says to him, "I should like to learn all about library work so that I can have a nice place, and perhaps if I come here for a day or two you will give me something to read," hands out a copy of Cutter's Rules with the answer, "Cataloguing is an important part of the work, and this is an authority on it." The applicant after reading a few sentences like "Messages of a superior executive officer transmitting to a legislative body or some higher executive officer the report of some inferior officer, should be entered as the report of the inferior officer, provided the message is merely introductory and contains no independent matter: provided, also, there are not three or more reports; if there are, the higher officer is to be regarded as the collecting editor; in this case refer analytically to the superior officer's official title from all the inferior officers whose reports are so transmitted," usually closes the book and departs without appointing "a day to learn all about library work."

Ten or twelve years ago a girl asked me for a place, saying that she thought it "no disgrace to be in a library;" and I have often heard the question, "Haven't you some easy position for a few hours in a day?" There are no easy places in a library, where a girl can play "lady." The cataloguer, who writes steadily six or seven hours a day, must have, before she begins to learn her work, the knowledge of half a dozen languages and the ability to pick up a smattering of others whenever she needs them. She must write a clear, even hand, be absolutely accurate in spelling, punctuation, use of capitals and copying, and should be patient and painstaking and ready to "dig" in books. She must understand the relation of all arts and sciences to each other, and must have a sufficient knowledge of them to determine under what class any book should be placed, besides a minute acquaintance with geography, history, art, and literature.

A delivery-clerk must be on her feet for hours at a time, and should be accurate in figures, quick to remember faces, pleasant and courteous, well-read enough to recommend good, interesting, and pleasant books in English, French, or German, and to know the best authorities and best editors on all subjects in demand. She should not be ignorant enough to offer an out-of-date scientific

book to a reader who wishes to learn a new process in electro-plating or a new theory in chemistry, and should understand human nature well enough not to give a boy of 12 a history suitable for a college senior. She must be ready at a moment's warning to tell where to find the latest method of flash-light photography, an account of the government of the German Empire in simple form for a child, recent intelligence on Micronesian missions, or the best description of the phosphate beds of South Carolina. She should be well-read enough to guess what a reader means when he asks for a book by the wrong author or wrong title, or a short story, supposing it is to be a novel. She must know books, old and new, well enough to suggest the best substitute for one not on the shelves, and must constantly bear in mind that essays not to be found in book form are probably in the library in some magazine. She must be able to show readers how to find magazine articles and must be ready to pick out "any good readable book" a hundred times a day, adapting her estimate of the book to the age and condition of the reader. She must be willing to work eight or ten hours a day, give up most or all of her evenings and know little or nothing of "teas," afternoon receptions, lectures, concerts, church sociables, or even week-day church services. In some libraries every assistant is allowed one morning a week, but those who are paid the highest salaries give up all their evenings. Vacations in summer vary from two to four weeks, and salaries of assistants from three hundred to nine hundred dollars. Librarians and library attendants sometimes break down from overwork, but it is oftener on account of irregularity in meals or lack of exercise. Good care of one's self, plenty of sleep and nourishing food, with a walk of two or three miles every day, are all as useful to library workers as to any other class of women.

A man whose name is known wherever American libraries have been heard of once said to me that he believed the ability for library work to be as truly God-given as any other talent. If a girl of twelve or fourteen would rather live with books than anywhere else, if she has read or looked into every one within her reach, from Paley's "Natural Theology" to "Tristram Shandy;" if she can usually answer the outside questions in history or literature that are asked in school, and is never satisfied until she has found the author of every quotation or the meaning of every allusion in her reading; if Shakespeare and Scott, Dickens and Thackeray are her well-beloved friends, she should begin to train herself for library work, giving as much attention as possible to languages and history in school. After her school or college course let her go through the Library School if she can, or take one of the shorter courses. If not, let her make as plain and business-like an application as possible at the nearest library. She may have to begin as a "gallery girl," who waits until orders for books come up from below, and then takes the volumes from the shelves to be put into a basket or truck for the delivery-desk. She may be told to sort old newspapers or overlook the cleaning of dusty shelves, or perhaps she can have only a substi-

tute's place at first, but if she has the right stuff in her she will soon be promoted. There are many inefficient middle-aged women in libraries, who were put there because they had no means of support and have stayed for years just where they were at first from lack of ambition and interest, but the girl whom I have described is not like them.

Nearly twenty years ago six or eight girls, while waiting for places as teachers, were set at work in this very library in preparing a catalogue for printing. When this was done they began to teach, but one of them felt the fascination of library work and knew that she would rather do it fifty weeks in the year for ten hours a day six days in the week than teach five hours a day five days in the week and thirty-eight weeks a year. Her desire to be in a library grew and strengthened with years, until at last she gave up her school and took an assistant's place in a newly-opened free library in New York. Before long the librarian died, and the assistant had shown such marked ability that she was appointed to her place. She is still at the head of the library, which now includes branches all over the city, and she has been within a few years sent abroad to buy thousands of books, is one of the officers of the American Library Association, and a prominent member of the New York Literary Club. Many libraries ask applicants what their special studies or lines of reading have been since leaving school, and in nine cases out of ten the answer is "Novels only." An assistant well-read in good novels is invaluable in a library if she remembers characters and incidents and has the knack of suiting books to readers, but a girl who has read nothing but writers of the Duchess' or even E. P. Roe's grade is absolutely useless. The more that a library aspirant has followed some special subject the better informed she is upon history and historical characters, art and artists, the better hope she has of a permanent appointment.

#### THE WORLD'S CONGRESS AUXILIARY OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

PRELIMINARY ADDRESS OF THE GENERAL  
COMMITTEE ON LITERARY CONGRESSES.

WILLIAM F. POOLE, LL.D., *Chairman.*

THE World's Congress Auxiliary is an organization maintained by the Exposition corporation, and approved by the United States Government, for the purpose of arranging a series of international conventions, or congresses, during the Exposition season of 1893, which will bring together for mutual acquaintance, consultation, and discussion the leading scholars and specialists in the various departments of human progress.

The work of the Auxiliary has been assigned to a number of general committees, and these are further subdivided into sections, each having its own congress and sub-committee.

The General Committee on Literary Congresses herewith submits a preliminary statement of the sections and the subjects they will cover which thus far have been decided upon, namely:



1. Libraries.
2. Historical Literature.
3. Philology.
4. Authors and Imaginative Literature.

It is the intention of the committee in arranging these international conventions — and others, if it shall later seem desirable — to ask the co-operation of, and to act largely through, the national and other societies now existing for promoting these several objects. To this end persons eminent in the work of each section and residing in this and foreign countries will be invited to act as an Advisory Council and to favor the committee with suggestions and proposals of papers on topics to be considered at the conventions.

#### LIBRARIES.

Concerning the subject matter of the first section it may be remarked that in no other department of organized literary activity during the last twenty-five years has there been such a marked development as in that of libraries, in number, in accession of books, in funds for their support, in methods of administration, and the construction of library buildings. This interest is represented by national organizations — the American Library Association, the Library Association of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and by various French, German, and Italian societies. Within the last two years State Library Associations have been organized in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The amount of money given by private beneficence within the last few years for endowing libraries and erecting buildings has no parallel in the history of public charities.

An International Conference of Libraries such as was held in London in October, 1877, and was attended by a large American delegation, is proposed. It is believed that the scheme will be gladly responded to in Europe, and that the occasion will be of the highest interest and benefit. The invitation is extended not only to the members of the organizations named, but to benefactors, directors, trustees, and to all who are interested in libraries of every description.

#### HISTORICAL LITERATURE.

Historical literature, which constitutes the second section, is a subject of general and increasing interest. Taking on more accurate and thorough methods of investigation and a purer style, it has made immense progress in recent years. It has found its appropriate place in the curriculum of the leading universities, and is a favorite study of their brightest graduates. In our country the American Historical Association is its national organ. Nearly every State has its Historical Society, and there are many municipal and local societies, each having its faithful workers in some phase of history. Similar societies exist in foreign countries; and it will be a pleasure to our historical students to meet and hear in an international congress their eminent men whose names in America are household words.

To foreigners, also, there is a fascination in our eventful national career, and Mr. Bryce's remarkable book, "The American Commonwealth," is quite as interesting to them as to us. Our foreign brethren can also teach us an important

lesson, namely: how to establish and maintain a National Department of Archives for the study of our own history. Every nation in Europe, and even Canada on our border, has such a department, while the United States has none. The fact is discreditable to our nation. For the study of early American and especially North-western history we must go to Ottawa or to European archives to find original and authentic documents. The historical material deposited in the State Department at Washington is not arranged, calendared, or accessible; and it is not possible, under the present organization of the department, and with the limited space available, to increase the collection and meet the wants of historical investigators. A new and separate "Department of National Archives" is needed.

#### PHILOLOGY.

In arranging for the third section, "Philology," the committee will rely largely on the counsel and co-operation of the American Philological Society, the American Oriental Society, the Modern Language Association, and similar societies in this and foreign countries. Until the committee has had an opportunity to confer with the officers of these societies it will not be practicable to decide upon a scheme of special topics to be considered. The subject of comparative philology and the late discoveries of Assyrian and Egyptian scholars open a wide field for conference and discussion.

#### AUTHORS AND IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE.

The committee believes that the scheme proposed for the fourth section, "Authors and Imaginative Literature" — of bringing together in convention the living authors of imaginative literature and persons associated for the study of the great imaginative writers of the past — will be one of the most interesting features of the work of the Auxiliary. In this section, as in the others, the committee asks the co-operation of the societies already formed for the study of special authors, such as Homer, Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Shelley, Browning, and others. Arrangements may be made for short addresses or readings by distinguished living authors.

As the meeting of many congresses at one time would not be convenient, an allotment of dates from May to October, 1893, will be made and later announced when the congresses under the charge of each of the general committees will assemble; and it is expected that individuals and societies interested in the subject then to be considered will take that time to visit the Exposition.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THIS DEPARTMENT.

The special committees having immediate care of the work of the several sections under charge of this General Committee are as follows:

1. Libraries — Frederick H. Hild, Public Library; Daniel L. Shorey, Norman Williams.
2. Historical Literature — William F. Poole, Newberry Library; Franklin MacVeagh, Lewis H. Boutell.
3. Philology — William Morton Payne, No. 1601 Prairie Avenue; Daniel Bonbright, James T. Hatfield.
4. Authors and Imaginative Literature — Fran-

cis F. Browne, *The Dial*; Franklin H. Head, Joseph Kirkland.

Recommendations and suggestions from American and foreign correspondents, addressed to the General Chairman, or the chairman of one of the special committees, are respectfully solicited.

WILLIAM F. POOLE, *Chairman*,  
DANIEL BONBRIGHT,  
LEWIS H. BOUTELL,  
FRANCIS F. BROWNE,  
JAMES T. HATFIELD,  
FRANKLIN H. HEAD,  
FREDERICK H. HILD,  
JOSEPH KIRKLAND,  
ALEXANDER C. MCCLURG,  
FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,  
WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE,  
CHARLES W. PEARSON,  
HUGH M. SCOTT,  
DANIEL L. SHOREY,  
DAVID SWING,  
NORMAN WILLIAMS,

*General Committee.*

EXPOSITION HEADQUARTERS, CHICAGO, July, 1891.

#### A BAD WAY.

*From the Chronicle, Brookline, Mass., April 18, 1891.*

THERE are two distinct ways of spending the public money. The one is that which calls for a most searching and careful investigation into every detail of expenditure, to make sure that each item of cost is cut down to the lowest possible figure consistent with good work, and that the work, when done, should in every particular come up to the standard laid down in the contracts. The other way is best exemplified in the report of the sub-committee on the part of the Boston Common Council, to whom was assigned the duty of inquiring into matters relating to the new Public Library building in Copley Square. This report, to our minds, shows a most shiftless way of handling this large and important work, and we can find nothing of credit in it either to the architects or the trustees. On the 23d day of April, 1888, the architects submitted a final estimate of \$1,165,955 as being the amount needed to complete the building in accordance with their plans. In the course of construction there has been "saved by alterations in plan of building" the sum of \$283,000. The balance—namely, \$883,000—should, therefore, represent the cost of the building had the architect's estimates been accurate. We find, however, two very damaging items in the report, damaging to the accuracy at least of the architect's estimates. They are as follows: "Increased cost by items omitted in original estimate, \$725,000;" and "underestimate of items covered by original estimate, \$725,000." We are left quite in the dark as to whether the word "omitted" in the first item indicates negligence on the part of the architect or whether it refers to items in construction not included in the specifications and plans upon which the estimate of April 23d was based. The presumption, however, is that the phraseology of the sentence containing this word would have been made to stand out clearly had it been possible to absolve the architect from all blame for this large item of added cost. When, however, we turn to the

second item of \$725,000 we are obliged to ask no questions to relieve it of any possible ambiguity. The word "underestimate" makes the matter clear, and we marvel at the business management which makes it necessary to ask for \$725,000 additional to complete a contract the total of which was but \$883,000, the more especially when the confession is made that faulty figures in making the original estimate are the cause of it all. Nor must we lose sight of the statement which, in his original estimate under date of Dec. 16, 1888, the architect made concerning it. He said therein that the estimate included "a percentage for possible omissions." This has not only been used up (and the percentage was probably by no means a small one), but the enormous sum of \$725,000 in addition must be added to it to make good the cost over and above the architect's estimates. So much for the architect. We rest confident that there will be but one opinion of his connection with the matter.

A word now concerning the trustees. In their annual report, dated December, 1888, they say not word about a possible deficiency, nor in their report of a year later do they refer to any errors in the original calculation of cost, although they do call attention to the fact that "the plans and estimates, as presented, did not include any of the platforms, approaches, sculpture or adornments necessary for a building of this importance or any of the furniture or shelving required in it, but during the year the plans for some of these items have been completed." It certainly seems as though they should have known that the final cost of the building would prove to be far in excess of the original estimates, as they certainly must have been aware of the fact that this state of affairs was largely due to the blunders of the architect's figures. It seems to us to have been a very badly managed affair from inception; nor can we find any consolation for ourselves in the committee's statement that the building, when finished, will prove to be "a palace for the people." We admit ourselves to be somewhat at a loss to know just what the committee means by this phrase. They certainly could have had no thought of Walter Besant's ideal so magnificently and successfully carried out in London, for it bears no possible resemblance to the People's Palace of that city. If by the use of the word palace they wish to praise the architectural features of the building, it is perhaps well to say that on this point public opinion is by no means a unit. But perhaps the use of the words "a palace for the people" may be found in the desire on the part of the committee to say something as a final wind-up to their report, and not being able to say that the building would prove to be a model and modern library building, thought this alliterative phrase would serve the purpose as well as any other. The present estimate of total cost runs up to \$2,343,000. When this has been spent the city of Boston will have a building which, in the minds of those best qualified to judge—the great body of intelligent and progressive librarians throughout the country—will fall far short of being perfect in the light of present library development.

It seems to us that the above illustrates the "bad way" of spending the public's money.



## THE MOST POPULAR BOOKS.

Interview with F. M. Crunden, Librarian of the Public Library, St. Louis.

THE leisured class does the most reading—that is, women. By far the greatest number of books taken from the Public Library are taken by women who devote themselves chiefly to fiction. Of the other sex the real reading and studying are done by young men between the ages of 15 and 27, who read works of scientific and technical character. It is not possible to ascertain the amount of reading done by each profession, as it would involve too much labor of a very unprofitable sort. Besides, the interest in such a question is purely speculative. The important question is, What sort of books are now popular among all classes and what books have been popular? The drift of popular taste can nowhere be so well discovered as in the records of a public library. By those records we can ascertain what subject is of most interest to the people who do the thinking for the community.

The following table shows the change in popular taste or popular interest since 1882:

	Issue number.	1882 per cent.	Issue number.	1889 per cent.
Philosophy.....	512	.61	893	.70
Theology.....	586	.69	1,411	1.10
Social science....	882	1.05	1,845	1.45
Natural science..	2,204	2.61	3,618	2.84
Art.....	2,779	3.29	3,852	3.03
Fiction.....	52,512	62.23	68,763	54.06
Juvenile.....	12,503	14.82	30,557	24.03
Literary miscel- lany.....	3,172	3.76	4,117	3.25
History.....	6,813	8.08	8,603	6.76
Cyclopedias, pe- riodicals.....	2,412	2.86	3,534	2.78
Total.....	84,380	100	127,203	100

It appears from this that the issue of "juveniles" and "social science" has considerably more than doubled during the seven years, while that of fiction has increased by one-third. The total issue has increased by one-half. But this does not exactly represent the drift of interest. During November and December, 1889, and January, February, March, and April, 1890, "Looking Backward" topped the list of novels issued. "Looking Backward" will appear under fiction, but nobody would ever think of reading it except for the political economy and social science found in it, or supposed to be in it. The same considerations, no doubt, influence the circulation of many other novels. Thus William Morris' delightful story, "News From Nowhere," although one of the most charming of stories, would be read as a story by a very limited number of persons—persons for the most part of culture and fond of art for art's sake. But as a matter of fact the run the book is now having is due to the fact that the author is a Socialist, and exhibits in "News From Nowhere" the world of his aspirations. After a fashion it is a work on economics, and is sought by those interested in that subject. Other works of fiction bearing on the social question are Howells' "Hazard of New Fortunes" and Warner's "A Little Journey in the World." Although by masters of the art of fiction, these two books have been circulated quite as extensively for the insight they afford into some phases of the social question.

Keeping this in mind, it will be seen that the

decline in the issue of fiction is considerably more than the 8 per cent. shown in the table, and that other classes are increased correspondingly.

The 10 books (fiction) most frequently called for can justly be said to afford an insight into popular taste. In the list are usually found two or three new books which for any reason are having a run. The others are old books which hold their own against all competitors and bid fair to outlast many generations of the first. "Looking Backward" is the most notable. This book when first issued fell flat. Some accident gave it popularity, and the craze reached its height about 16 months ago. In November, 1889, it was issued 47 times; in December, 1889, 62 times; in January, 1890, 73 times, after which it rapidly declined in favor until in May, 1890, it disappeared from the list of the 10 most popular novels. In February and March, 1890, Mark Twain's "A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur" forced its way into the best society, but was soon found out and sent down the ranks. It did not maintain itself more than two months. "The Lady with the Rubies" gained a place among the upper ten in February, 1890, but dropped to 25th place the next month. Another case of the fickleness, or perhaps justice, of the popular taste was the sad fortunes of "Robert Elsmere." In its palmy days it stood beside "Les Miserables" and "The Marble Faun," close to the top of the upper ten. One year ago it had fallen from its high estate and was keeping company with Mrs. Holmes and E. P. Roe. It is seldom called for—now and then in a deprecating, apologetic manner, as though the applicant felt that she was making herself ridiculous and wanted the thing kept as quiet as possible. All these are works of temporary popularity.

Of those works which are always near the top, or always within the 10, are "Ben Hur," "Les Miserables," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Marble Faun," and "The Scarlet Letter." The first, second, and third never lose their place among the 10; the other two seldom, and when they are depressed by a new book soon recover themselves. Through all the varyings of whims of fashion and fancy the popular taste is firm and fixed. Certainly the average reader is not a poor judge of literature. The 15 novels from which the upper ten are always selected, except when some are depressed for a time by popular curiosity or caprice, are: "Les Miserables," "Ben Hur," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "The Marble Faun," "The Scarlet Letter," "Vanity Fair," "David Copperfield," "Romola," "Ivanhoe," "Mill on the Floss," "Count of Monte Cristo," "The Talisman," "Ramona," "The Colonel's Daughter," "Fair God," and "Kenilworth."

But this by itself is not a fair test of popular taste. It is not only simple titles that must be considered, but authors. Some authors are very popular through all their books, while others depend for favor upon one or two. Thus Mrs. Holmes has 25 novels in the Public Library. These were issued 239 times in one month, or on an average each volume went out 10 times. E. P. Roe has 16 novels, which were issued 135 times, or an average of 8 for each. Walter Scott has 21, with a total issue of 124, or an average of 6. Looked at in this way,

these three are the most popular authors in St. Louis. Although Victor Hugo stands at the head with "Les Misérables" issued 45 times, no other of his works has got within a list of 80. Thackeray, whose "Vanity Fair" is always among the first ten, reached a total circulation, including 7 titles, of only 44. Hawthorne, whose "Marble Faun" is one of the ten, has a circulation of 68 with 9 titles. Dickens, whose "David Copperfield" is near the head, has 19 titles with a total circulation of 105. Blackmore, with 9 titles, circulates 19 times. In other words, while 239 people are reading Mrs. Holmes, 135 E. P. Roe, and 124 Walter Scott, only 45 are reading Hugo, 44 are reading Thackeray, 68 Hawthorne, and 105 Dickens, while Blackmore reaches only 19 persons in St. Louis.

These facts seem to show that in St. Louis there is a large number of people who are fond of the very best literature, but devote themselves to one or two representative works of each author. They also seem to show that there are in St. Louis a large number of people who "want something to read," but are not particular what it is so long as it does not tax their mental energies. These people do not discriminate between different works by the same author, but swallow all in equal quantities. Thus, it cannot be said of any one of Mrs. Holmes' novels that it is her best or that it is the most popular. The average is nearly realized. The same may be said of E. P. Roe. Readers of such books do not discover the characteristic differences between the books they read, partly because they lack the power of discernment, but chiefly because in books of the class mentioned there are no characteristic differences to discriminate.

A curious fact noticed in all libraries is the mortality among first volumes of standard sets. The first volume is rebound many times, and at last worn out, before the last volume shows signs of age. It all comes of an uninstructed impulse which often overwhelms people. They discover that they ought to be cultivated, but don't know just how to set about getting into that interesting condition. They feel that they ought to acquaint themselves with English history, and hearing that Green's is a good history of England, plunge into it full of zeal. But to one unacquainted with the subject its details are apt to be tiresome, and zeal flags and dies out at the end of the first or second volume. The circulation of the first volumes of such works is many times greater than that of the last. If such people would go through a good outline history and get a bird's-eye view of the subject, "an outline for their ignorance," they could fill in the details with profit and pleasure. After getting the outline they could direct their studies to any particular period which chanced to interest them and exhaust that, if they were zealous enough, without losing sight of the connection of that period with the past and its bearings on the future. English history, instead of being a bore, as it is to those who stop at the first or second volume, would be quick with lively interest.

The most frequent calls for books come from the applicant who wants "something good to read." It is in dealing with people whose taste is in the nebulous condition indicated by this re-

quest that the librarians find an opportunity to "educate the public." The applicant is questioned as to his or her reading habits. If his mental pabulum is furnished by books of a very low class, the librarian recommends something not quite so low. If the applicant confesses a fondness for Mrs. Southworth, she is given one of Mrs. Holmes' novels, but if she has already risen to the height of Mrs. Holmes, an attempt is made to still further elevate her taste and one of Roe's moral tales is handed out. This plan is followed persistently, and if the individual is not discouraged in her ambition to read "something good" the librarian will soon have her reading Dickens and Thackeray, and perhaps Hawthorne or Howells. But when she gets to this point she will probably choose her own reading and allow the librarian to devote his attention to later applicants who have just begun the process of self-culture.

#### THE HOME LIBRARIES OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

*From the Addresses, Boston, March 24, 1890.*

C. G. BIRKWELL, Sec. of the Society.—"Home Libraries" are established in the homes of poor and morally exposed children. A bookcase filled with 15 books and a supply of juvenile magazines, like the one you see [on a table at the left of the speaker stood a Home Library tastefully decorated with flowers], is placed upon the wall of the living-room of the home. Some trustworthy boy or girl in the family from 10 to 14 years of age serves as librarian, and the group of readers consists of 10 boys and girls from the neighborhood from 7 or 8 to 15 or 16 years of age. For each library there is a volunteer visitor, who meets the children at the regular weekly exchange of books, becomes acquainted with them, encourages intelligent and thorough reading, arranges pleasant outings, teaches home games, induces the children to save their pennies and open accounts at the savings-banks, and enters in a hundred ways helpfully into the lives of the youthful readers. The visitors make monthly reports in writing and hold a monthly conference. A set of books and papers, when read, is exchanged for a fresh supply. Not a book is placed in the libraries that one would not be willing his own son or daughter should read. When the readers reach young manhood and womanhood, and are graduated, so to speak, from these juvenile libraries, there will be placed in their hands selected lists of books, with the numbers that these books bear in the public library and its branches. The first of the Home Libraries was established three years ago. There are now 37.

Here, again, is an "institution" that rears no proud front to the public gaze, that he who runs may remark it. You must go up and down many byways—to say nothing of flights of stairs—to find its hiding-places. Quietly in humble homes it is invoking the spirit of good and exorcising the spirit of evil. It has thrown down the gauntlet to the powers of darkness; and vice and crime, foul sights and sounds, shall find it a desperate foe to conquer.

Prof. F. G. PEABODY, D.D. — We have tried to bring together those young men who wanted to do something for somebody else, or, as one of them expressed it, to make of Harvard College something else than a "winter watering-place." And I need not say to you there is nothing in this world more beautiful to see than a healthy-minded young man, in the bloom of his manhood, touched with the feeling of others' infirmities and taking his time not only from his books but, what is still more wonderful, from his play, to bend to this activity among the humblest of the poor, and to sit with these little groups of boys and girls among their household libraries in the darker places of the great city. . . . And, what is still more odd, the library work of this Society, by a curious coincidence, has begun the same way of administration as the library of a great university. One of the strange things about library work to-day is this: that, having collected a great library, we forthwith feel the need of a lot of little ones; and the method of progress is not so much through the enlargement of the great central library as in the growth of a great number of small and special libraries, where the books shall be fairly forced into the students' hands. In the same way you have little departmental libraries, putting the books directly into the readers' hands, and some twenty of them administered by the students of the other college. . . . Of redemptive work among grown-up people there may well be some doubt and scepticism; but of preventive work among the young there can be nothing but hope. Among the most touching experiences which my own pupils have reported has been the evidence of influence wrought upon the parents by the work done among their boys and girls. One of these administrators of a little household library goes to the home and sets the children to reading to the mother, who is weary with her work, or the father, who is idle after his. By and by the parents begin to have a personal interest in that which interests the children, and at last the parents are as anxious as the children to keep the little library in their home.

#### READING AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

*From the St. James' Gazette.*

IN Paris, as well as with us, it is found that the value of public free libraries as a means of educating the masses is small. An attempt was made to induce people who frequent the sixty-four free libraries in Paris to prefer instructive books to works of fiction, but the only result of this was a decrease in the number of readers. So the endeavor was abandoned, the authorities coming to the conclusion that it is better the public should read novels than not read at all. At present nearly 50 per cent. of the books taken out are novels. Both in London and Paris we may as well accept the inevitable. The free library is not a place where the ardent student learns the latest lessons of science or studies the masterpieces of literature past and present. The reader, if of the male sex, goes to search the scriptures of the sporting prophets; if a woman, to read the fashion papers and the fiction of the day. The books best worth reading are unread.

#### American Library Association.

PROGRAMME OF THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
OCTOBER 12-16, 1891.

##### FIRST SESSION, MONDAY AFTERNOON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Consideration of the report of the proceedings of the last meeting as printed.  
Report of Secretary.  
Report of Treasurer.  
Reports of Committees of the Executive Board: Standing, Finance, Co-operation, Library School, Public Documents, Endowment.  
Report of the Trustees of the Permanent Fund.  
Report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.  
Report of the Committee on the Exhibition of the American Library Association at the Columbian Exposition.  
Announcement of Committees on Reception and Resolutions.  
Report on aids and guides for readers by William C. Lane, Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library.  
Report on gifts and bequests by Miss C. M. Hewins, Librarian of the Hartford Library, Hartford, Conn.

##### SECOND SESSION, MONDAY EVENING.

Reception to the members of the Association.  
Address of reception by Rev. Horatio Stebbins, D.D., of San Francisco.  
Reply by the President of the American Library Association.  
Poem by John Vance Cheney, Librarian of the Free Public Library, San Francisco.

##### THIRD SESSION, TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

President's address.  
Report on binding and binderies in libraries by D. V. R. Johnston, Sub-Librarian of the State Library, Albany, N. Y.  
Home Libraries, by John M. Glenn, Manager and Treasurer of the New Mercantile Library, Baltimore, Md.

##### FOURTH SESSION, TUESDAY EVENING.

Popular meeting. Addresses by California speakers and visiting members of the Library Association on the value of libraries to communities and the importance of providing them with good buildings and other working facilities.

##### FIFTH SESSION, WEDNESDAY FORENOON.

Elementary library architecture by Charles C. Soule, Trustee of the Public Library, Brookline, Mass.

Consideration of the subject of library buildings by William F. Poole, Librarian of the Newberry Library, Chicago; Charles A. Cutter, Librarian of the Boston Athenæum; K. A. Linderfelt, Librarian of the Public Library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and others.

General questions and informal discussion.

## SIXTH SESSION, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Libraries and Schools, by Samuel Swett Green, Librarian of the Free Public Library, Worcester, Mass.

Work in connection with schools and manufacturing, by William H. Brett, Librarian of the Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Discussion of the subject.

Report on library legislation, by Thorvald Solberg, late Assistant Librarian in the Congressional Library, Washington.

The best library legislation, by William I. Fletcher, Librarian of Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

## SEVENTH SESSION, THURSDAY FORENOON.

Access to the shelves by users of libraries.

Papers by Herbert Putnam, Librarian of the Public Library, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and William H. Brett, Librarian of the Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.

Discussion.

Five-minute talk on a pre-historic pool, by J. C. Rowell, Librarian of the University of California.

Report on contagious diseases and their dissemination through the use of library books, by Gardner M. Jones, Librarian of the Public Library, Salem, Mass.

Exhibition of plans and blanks.

## EIGHTH SESSION, THURSDAY EVENING (AT OAKLAND, IN THE CHURCH OF REV. MR. WENDTE).

Public support of public libraries, with particular reference to the treatment of the subject in "A plea for liberty," by William E. Foster, Librarian of the Public Library, Providence, R. I.

Discussion.

Impressions in foreign libraries and notes on the recent meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, by Miss M. S. Cutler, Vice-Director of the Library School, Albany, N. Y.

State Library Associations, by Charles A. Cutter and Miss Harriet E. Green, of the Boston Athenæum.

General questions and informal discussion.

## NINTH SESSION, FRIDAY FORENOON.

Election of officers. Selection of time and place of the next meeting.

Unfinished business.

Should the arrangement and administration of public libraries be marked by uniformity or should individuality be allowed to assert itself? by Lewis H. Steiner, Librarian of the Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Md.

Five-minute talk on printing from cards, catalogue work, by John Vance Cheney, Librarian of the Free Public Library, San Francisco.

Catalogues from the reader's and student's point of view, by Paul L. Ford, editor of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

Economical and selected catalogues, by Willis K. Stetson, Librarian of the Free Public Library, New Haven, Conn.

Books and libraries and their treatment fifty

years ago, by Henry Barnard, late U. S. Commissioner of Education.

The annual meeting of the Association of State Librarians will be held Wednesday forenoon before the meeting of the American Library Association.

The annual meeting of the Trustees' Section will be held at the same hour.

The annual meeting of the A. L. A. Publishing Section will be held Thursday forenoon before the meeting of the general Association.

The annual meeting of the College Library Section will be held Friday forenoon before the meeting of the general Association.

Since the last number of the JOURNAL was made up our California friends have announced entertainments additional to those there mentioned.

There is to be a reception at Stanford University, and this has to be followed by a lawn party, at which Senator and Mrs. Stanford will be present.

There is also to be a reception by the Women's Press Association at San Francisco.

The visit to Stanford University will be on Wednesday afternoon; the reception of the Women's Press Association Friday afternoon.

There is to be a dinner Thursday afternoon at Oakland.

An invitation to a lunch under the big trees near Santa Cruz and to a drive about the Cliff has been received, and it is understood that hospitalities are to be extended to visitors in Southern California.

It is to be hoped that all persons who can go to California will do so, and thus show their appreciation of the great efforts which are making to render our visit pleasant.

Very truly yours,

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,  
Pres. of the A. L. A.

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Library Association of the United Kingdom.

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## FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Association held its 14th annual meeting in the University College, Nottingham, from the 16th to the 18th September. Papers were read on questions relating to library management and bibliography, and there were also exhibitions of art bookbinding and of library appliances, etc. The Castle Museum Committee arranged for an exhibition of art bookbindings, under the control of Mr. G. H. Wallis; and there was also an exhibition of library appliances, bindings, forms, etc., at the University College, arranged by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe. There was an official reception at the Castle Art Museum on Tuesday evening, Sept. 15; a dinner at the Mechanics' Institute on Wednesday, and an excursion on Thursday.



## New York Library Club.

### MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE Executive Committee met at Columbia College September 4. There were present Miss Plummer, Miss Crandall, Mr. Hill, Mr. Poole, and Mr. Baker.

It was voted to accept the invitation of Mr. G. W. Cole to hold the November meeting at the Jersey City Public Library. Miss Plummer consented to prepare a paper descriptive of the most interesting features of the Western libraries which will be visited by the A. L. A.

It was recommended by the committee that the invitations received by the Club be accepted in the following order: for the January meeting, Mr. Berry's invitation to meet at the Brooklyn Y. M. C. A. Library; for the February meeting, the invitation of Mr. Poole; for March, Miss Hull's invitation to meet at the Union for Christian Work, Brooklyn, and that the annual meeting in May be held at Columbia College. This programme was, however, left open to change.

Voted that the topic for the January meeting be the discussion of the proposed library law for New York State.

Voted that the Executive Committee recommend as an amendment to the Constitution that the Treasurer of the Club be *ex officio* a member of its Executive Committee.

Adjourned.

M. J. CRANDALL, Sec.

## State Library Associations.

### MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING to organize a Michigan Library Association was held in the rooms of the Detroit Medical and Library Association at 2 o'clock on Sept. 1. 37 persons registered, representing 22 libraries.

Mr. Utley opened the meeting with a brief address on the importance of having library work carried on in the broadest, most progressive way, and spoke of the help that a State organization might give, especially to librarians who could not attend the A. L. A. meetings. He then introduced Mr. Butzel, who made a very happy address of welcome in behalf of the Detroit Library Commission.

The meeting was then formally called to order with Mr. Barbour, a former member of the Detroit Library Commission, as chairman. A constitution was adopted and the officers for one year chosen: President, H. M. Utley, of Detroit; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Calhoun of the State Library, and Mr. F. E. Morgan, Trustee of the Coldwater Library; Secretary, Mrs. Parsons, of Bay City; Treasurer, Miss Ball, of Grand Rapids.

Mrs. Miner, of Muskegon, explained her method of caring for pamphlets and periodicals. She

catalogues pamphlets and places them on the shelves with books of the same class, but does not enter them in the accession catalogue. Leading articles in magazines she catalogues on colored cards that are removed when the index to periodicals is published.

Miss Eddy, of Coldwater, read a paper describing the work done in special classes of history, literature, and botany in the library of Coldwater. Discussions followed each subject.

Hon. Henry Barnard gave his experiences as a librarian of the Yale Library 60 years ago. The meeting adjourned until 7:30.

In the evening Miss Cochrane explained the method employed in the Detroit Library in changing the classification from the fixed location system to the decimal system without closing the library. This was accomplished by first going through the library and assigning each book to its class, writing lightly on the title-page with pencil. Then one class was withdrawn from the shelves, renumbered and replaced as soon as possible. This subject proved a very interesting one, as several libraries are now making the change. After discussion upon the different systems of classification, the meeting adjourned until 9:30 a.m.

In the morning Mr. Utley opened the meeting with a talk upon bindings. Papers were read by Miss Ball, of Grand Rapids, on the Selection of books for purchase, and by Miss Waldo, of Jackson, on the Ethics of library profession. Mr. Morgan, a trustee of the Coldwater Library, spoke upon the Public library and the public school. He showed by statistics that a large proportion of children leave school before reaching the graduating class and that the number who are able to enter a university is very small, and urged the necessity of making the libraries a means of higher education to the masses of the people. Mrs. Calhoun, of the State Library, read selections from several writers upon university extension. Mrs. Parsons, of Bay City, read a paper on the Relation of libraries to university extension.

Lansing was chosen as the next place of meeting; the time was left to the Executive Committee.

ANNIE F. PARSONS, Sec.

## Reviews.

CONRAD, J., and others, *Handwörterbuch der Staatswissenschaften*. II. und 12. Lieferung. Jena, Gustav Fischer, 1890. 1. 8°.

Although this dictionary as a whole deserves mention here on account of the numerous references which close its several articles and render it a most serviceable bibliography of the political sciences, the purpose of the present notice is exclusively to draw attention to its rubrics *Bibliotheken* and *Buchhandel*. The concise accuracy of the articles on these subjects is guaranteed by the signature of Professor Karl Dziatzko, who needs no introduction. The article on libraries discusses their classes, the condition of public libraries in Germany and other lands (Austria, France, Italy, England, U. S., etc.), and the copies of books which publishers are legally bound to deliver to libraries (*Pflichtexemplare*).

The other article gives briefly the history of the book trade in antiquity and the middle age, and at greater length its history since the invention of printing, and closes with a description of the organization and present condition of the book trade in Germany. That the articles have primary reference to other than American conditions will scarcely detract from their interest for American librarians. The dictionary also contains a large number of brief biographical notices, followed by very full bibliographies.

C. H. HULL.

### Library Economy and History.

#### LOCAL.

*Berlin (Conn.) L. A.* The association has purchased a lot, 25 by 52 feet, on Main Street, for the purpose of erecting a library building. On this a building 17 by 30 feet, containing two rooms and having a vestibule entrance, is to be erected at a cost of \$1300, including furnishing, and \$900 has already been subscribed for the purpose. R. W. Hill, of Waterbury, is the architect. There are upwards of 1000 volumes in the library at present.

*Bridgeport (Conn.) P. L.* (10th rpt.) Added 1677; total 19,182, home use 97,568; libr. use 17,626 (fict. and juv. 20 %); Sunday attendance 12,777.

*Bristol, R. I.* The will of Parthenia P. Norton, executed July 25, 1890, was filed for probate Aug. 8. The testator gives to Bristol her library and a cash bequest of \$5000. The money may be expended for a library building, or the income used for the purchase of books.

*Columbus (O.) C. L.* The disposition of the City Library was settled July 24 by leaving it just as it has been in the past. Two ordinances were pending. One provided for consolidating the City Library with the School Library in the new building in process of erection on Town Street. This measure was dropped on account of opposition from alcove endowers and other interests. The two libraries will, therefore, be conducted separately. Mr. Ramsey's ordinance amending Mr. Trauger's ordinance came up for third reading and passed almost unanimously. The ordinance as passed provides for locating the public library in the east room, on the first floor in the City Hall, to be governed by a board of six trustees consisting of the Mayor of the city, the President of the Council ex-officio, four other citizens of Columbus not members of the City Council, to be elected by the City Council. Immediately after passage of the ordinance the City Council shall elect 4 trustees, 2 of whom shall serve until the first regular meeting of the City Council in June, 1892, and the other two to serve until the first regular meeting of the City Council in June, 1893. At the June, 1892, meeting and every year thereafter, two members of the Board of Trustees shall be chosen to serve 2 years, no member to receive compensation for his services.

*Cornell Univ. L.* Hon. Andrew D. White having donated his private library to Cornell

University, the librarian, Mr. Burr, is now in this city superintending its removal. The ex-President's collection of books has all along remained in the library of his former residence in this city, the present residence of his son, Frederick D. White, on James Street.

*Denver (Colo.) P. L.* The bulletin for July gives the following list of the

#### LIBRARY STAFF.

025.1	D19.
025.4	T15.
025.6	L51.
025.3	D19.
025.05	C83.

*Fort Dodge, Iowa.* In January, 1890, the library was opened as a free public library. The experiment had proven so satisfactory that at the end of the first year the Common Council of the city, without a dissenting vote, entered upon a new contract arranging for the ultimate ownership of the library by the city.

*Harvard College* has received two sums of \$50,000 from Mr. Roger Wolcott, to commemorate the names of his father and brother, by the purchase of books on history, political economy, and sociology, and by the promotion of archaeological and ethnological research.

*Hartford (Conn.) L. Assoc.* (53d rpt.) Added about 1800 v.; total not stated; issued 43,858. "It is no longer a question whether a large supply of novels prevents readers from becoming familiar with English classics; it is whether they shall find at the library pleasant, wholesome stories, or go away without them to buy at newsstands and railway counters such stuff as one who looks may find there."

"The repairs and additions to the building will not be completed and the library become free for a year or more from this date" (June 1, 1891).

*Hoboken (N. J.) F. P. L.* (1st rpt.) Total 6047; issued in 176 days 44,245 v. Complaint is made of a noisy reading-room.

*Iowa State University.* The idea of a German library originated with Prof. C. B. Wilson, of the chair of modern languages and literature. The State could not at present respond liberally to the establishment of libraries of all foreign literature in the university. It was thought best, therefore, that a beginning be made by private contributions. German was chosen because of the important position of the German nation, because of the superiority of their educational institutions, because of the richness of the German language in literature, and last, but not least, because of the 120,000 German-born American citizens in Iowa. An appeal was made in March, 1891, to the American-German citizens in Iowa, to the alumni of the S. U. I., and to all lovers of German literature for aid. The response to this appeal has been very satisfactory. Of books, there have been some 50 volumes contributed, and in cash about \$500 received. 300 volumes have been ordered by Prof. Wilson, representing largely the literature of the 19th and the latter part of the 18th centuries. These books will be



in place, in a case reserved for them in the general library, before the opening of the coming school year for the use of students and free to all to consult or read in the library rooms, and a circulating library as to contributors.

*Lowell (Mass.) P. L.* The work of repainting and plastering the interior of the library is rapidly progressing. The main room has already been replastered and the work will be completed about the end of this month. In the lower floor additional bookcases have been added which will accommodate some 4000 extra books. The Trustees have found that it will cost as much to replace the gas pipe which lighted the alcoves as it will cost to put in new incandescent lights, and work upon the latter method of lighting will be begun to-day.

The money the library obtained from the insurance company will enable the library committee to fit up the library in a far superior manner than it was ever equipped before. More books will be purchased and the selection made will be done with care. While the place is being renovated all are taking a vacation.

*Milwaukee (Wis.) P. L.* BOOKS by the ton. Origin and growth of Milwaukee's library. A fine new building in prospect. Librarian Lindelfelt. (In *Yenowine's illustrated news*, Aug. 16.) 3½ col.

*Minnesota.* The Public School Library Commission is in session Aug. 7, at the Capitol, receiving bids for supplying books to the public school libraries of the State. 75 of the 77 counties of the State have sent in orders for books. Fillmore County heads the list with 36 orders. Goodhue has 33, Olmsted 28, Freeborn 21, Kandiyohi 15, and the other orders vary from 15 down to 1. In all 491 orders have been received. The amount expended is \$15,938.36, of which the State has paid \$6945.54 and the districts \$8992.82. In the four years during which the law has been in operation 1676 library orders have been filled, amounting to \$56,897.32, of which the State paid \$25,609.08.

*New York (N. Y.) Harlem L.* Mr. Norse, who has just been suspended as librarian, has laid before the people of Harlem an exhaustive statement in which he arraigns the Trustees for the fact that the library has fallen behind. The library consists of 16,000 volumes in a building in Third Avenue, near 122d Street. He takes up the history of the library from 1829 and shows by the records that the library, as it exists to-day, is purely the result of public money given to it from the Harlem Commons Fund for the benefit of the people of Harlem. From the very beginning, he points out, the people of Harlem have not had access to the library unless they have paid for the privilege. He says that the policy of the managers has never been to build up an institution which would be a credit and a benefit to the community, but rather to hoard what was given to them.

It is also declared by Mr. Norse that the existing system of "shareholders" was a pure farce, and that the shareholders have evidently not re-

garded it in any other light from the fact that they have neglected to vote on their shares. The library, he says, is now practically a private institution run by its President, Erastus F. Brown, with a Board of Trustees made up in the majority of members of the Brown family. In the last few years, he says, the list of subscribers has dropped from over 400 to 42, and all this, he says, is due to the fact that no effort has been made to make the library a popular institution, but that, in fact, every effort in that direction has been opposed by the Trustees.

Mr. Norse takes great pains to show how irregular (not in a dishonest sense) the management of the library has been, and avers that the institution is now and long has been in a position where the management should have adopted a broad policy that would have made it really a public library. His array of facts from the official records he places before the people of Harlem as sufficient warrant to bring from them a demand that the library, which, being established by public money for their benefit, is theirs, should be taken out of the hands of the present management and put under a management which would make it a benefit to them. Assemblyman Webster takes much the same view of the matter as does Mr. Norse, and promises to carry the issue to the Legislature if his constituents desire him to do so.

Erastus F. Brown has with him on the present Board of Trustees his brother, Edgar K. Brown, his son, Edgar K. Brown, C. B. Tooker, Edgar Ketchum, and Charles H. Randell. Mr. Brown is not inclined to take issue with Mr. Norse in regard to the facts he states from the history of the Harlem Library and its present small field of usefulness. He does, however, take issue to the allegation that its present condition is due to parsimony or a non-progressive spirit on the part of the past and present managements. He states that the present and past Trustees have built the property up, owing mainly to advances in Harlem real estate, from small beginnings to a very respectable property.

The decadence of the library, Mr. Brown says, is entirely due to the fact that the movement of those who once used it has been westward. The change in the character of the population around 122d Street has been such as practically to isolate the library from those who did use it. Its constituency has moved away from it.

To meet this condition of affairs the Trustees have already arranged for the sale of the present property and purchased a new site in Lenox Avenue, next to the Harlem Club. Building operations are to begin there as soon as possible, and Mr. Brown says he is confident that the library will then not only get back at once to its former condition of comparative prosperity, but will attain such a popularity as it deserves.

Mr. Brown declares that it is the desire of the Trustees to make the library as free as possible. The \$3 a year subscriptions now charged are solely to meet current expenses, he says. If the time comes when the receipts are more than sufficient to do that and to purchase such books as were demanded the subscription fee will be reduced. Nothing will please the Trustees more,

he says, than to have it an absolutely free library if there is an income for its maintenance to warrant such a step.

In regard to the allegation that the management had passed almost entirely into the hands of the Brown family and that the Trustees had simply met each year and re-elected themselves, Mr. Brown said that the reason for that was that nobody except the Trustees took sufficient interest in the library to come to the election and vote.

*Northampton (Mass.) Forbes L.* Contractors have been invited to make estimates upon the cost of erecting a building for the Forbes Library after plans of Architect William C. Brocklesby, of Hartford, but whether this plan will be accepted will depend upon the cost, as the Trustees are limited in the expenditure they can make in this direction. The style is Romanesque and the structure is to be thoroughly fire-proof in every particular. It is to be 104 by 107 feet on the ground, two stories high, and will probably be constructed of a combination of granite and Longmeadow stone. On the first or ground floor is the main library-room, with a well-lighted reference-room, a commodious reading-room, with quarters for the librarian and other conveniences. The second story is almost a duplicate of the first, and will be used as the library grows. The building has a capacity of 200,000 books.

*Pawtucket (R. I.) F. P. L.* Added 788; total 11,703; issued 49,010 (fict. 73.3 %); issued on school-cards 14,477 (fict. 62 %); the Sunday visitors average 97.

Of the fiction percentage on school cards, the librarian, Mrs. M. A. Sanders, says: "A set of Henty's historical novels and a set of Castlemon, both new this year, have raised the percentage. It must be remembered, however, that the books are carried into the homes, and read with much interest by many of the adult members of the family, and while Castlemon will be dropped with the reading, Henty's works will lead to a desire for biography and history.

"The teachers are requiring the pupils to make constant use of the library in their school work. The large number of books consulted in reference department (10,220) shows the increase in this branch of work.

"I am very glad to report better care of the books since we adopted the plan of examining them before replacing them on the shelves. We shall probably never overcome the want of neatness which necessitates a book being covered with every third circulation, as our report shows.

"When books are returned unnecessarily soiled, if it is a second time, we retain the card for two weeks; this we find to be quite effective among the younger patrons of the library.

"We cannot say that the patronage [of the reading-room] is increasing, for when we average 300 a day and the seats are filled, the maximum is reached.

"There is a marked improvement in the manners of the younger patrons of the room. The question, 'How do you manage your boys?' has been asked so many times by those who are trying and desire to try the experiment, that it

may be helpful if a few words are devoted to this subject.

"The eye must be trained to see many things at the same time; for it is only by being quickly observant and alert that the first indication of disorder can be arrested; this is often done before an untrained observer would see its need; sometimes by merely placing a book before a restless urchin or changing his seat where his eye will catch the sight of a fresh book. To keep the mind of each boy employed is absolutely necessary; when a mind cannot be so employed, we suggest a change to fresh air. A word now and then, showing individual interest, is very helpful."

In a description of library work she says:

"We must at all times be ready to act as animated guide-boards, directing the way to every kind of information. As an example, the questions of one hour are taken at random from an ordinary day's work, all of which were found to the satisfaction of the inquirer: The discovery of coal; Thomas W. Higginson's birthplace; The child queen; Languedoc Canal; Alaska; Eskimos; Holidays; Incandescent lights; Tower of London; Date of the battle of New Orleans; Burial customs; Origin of Thanksgiving; The quotation, 'Two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one.'"

*Providence, R. I.* The will of the late John Wilson Smith, of this city, was offered for probate Aug. 11. There are in it public bequests to the amount of almost a quarter of a million. The residuary estate, valued at \$200,000, is left equally to Brown University, Providence Free Library, and Rhode Island Hospital. There are also bequests to the Rhode Island Historical Society, \$1000, and Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, \$500.

*St. Joseph (Me.) P. L.* The board has had under consideration for some time the annexation of the St. Joseph Mechanical Library to that of the public library. This was accomplished Aug. 25. The library comprises at present over 600 volumes of valuable information to a large class of the reading public, and will at once be made accessible.

*Springfield (Mass.) City L. Assoc.* Added 3544 (fict. and juv. 660); total 76,029; home use 136,997, a slight decrease; hall use 25,769, besides books of reference kept outside of the alcoves and works used by special students in the alcoves.

The percentage of fiction last year was 49.1, this year 43.4. The library has been opened of a Sunday from 1:30 to 6 P.M. Thus far the number of visitors has not been large. A neighboring estate has been bought, 115 x 400 feet, which furnishes ample room, not only for the growth of the library and the contemplated development of the art department, but also for the concentration in one locality of the various historical, literary, and scientific societies that can profitably be united. The Connecticut Valley Historical Society, for instance, might be furnished with rooms, and the historical department of the library be so arranged that both in-

stitutions might be the gainers by the union. And so also of the scientific societies. A suitable room for meetings being furnished, the scientific collections might be built up by the joint efforts of the several organizations, and be used by each for all purposes of study and reference. In a large city it may be necessary to have separate institutions, but in a city like ours the concentration of all this class of educational agencies is exceedingly desirable, thus furnishing rare opportunities for our people in the direction of university extension. Indeed, the whole trend of the times is towards the concentration of educational work by the building up of large institutions with large libraries and extensive scientific collections, rather than by the multiplication of small institutions, poorly provided with such appliances.

*Stonington (Conn.) F. L. HILL, Mrs. Martha Todd.* Story of the Stonington Free Library, written for the Conn. Lib. Assoc., May 30, 1891. Stonington, n. d. [s.] l. D.

*Trenton, Mo.* The new library building is nearing completion and will be a great credit to the city. The building is being erected at a cost of about \$25,000 of the \$50,000 bequeathed by Mr. Jewett Morris, a former resident of Trenton and senator from this district. The remainder of the amount will be used in furnishing and endowing the institution.

*Utah Territorial L.* The Utah Legislature passed an act providing for and regulating the Utah Territorial Library. Among other things it provided that all books, pamphlets, maps, charts, globes, papers, apparatus, and valuable specimens belonging to the Territory now in the Territorial Library or which shall be hereafter added shall make up the Utah Territorial Library. It made the Governor, Secretary, Chief and Assistant Justices of the Supreme Court of the Territory the board of control of the library. Section 3 of that act provides that the board of control might, at its discretion, classify the books and articles, and deliver to the University of Deseret such books and articles as belonged to and comprised the Territorial Library as they might consider more useful to the University Library than to the Territorial Library. And any books and articles thus delivered to the University Library should thereupon become and thereafter remain a portion of the University Library.

Late in the summer of 1888, Nephi W. Clayton, the then territorial librarian, removed the books and shelves belonging to that library to the university, and placed them in the charge of Dr. J. R. Park. Dr. Hardy, the librarian of the University Library, was placed in charge of the books thus delivered. On the resignation of Dr. Hardy in 1889 Prof. M. E. Jones was appointed librarian for the academic year 1890.

The books of the two libraries, which had heretofore been kept separate, were rearranged on the general plan of subjects, and the books of the two libraries became mingled.

On February 21, 1891, the board of control of the Utah Territorial Library held a meeting to

take action, under section 3 of the law of March 13, 1890. They agreed to deliver to and place in the library of the University of Deseret all the miscellaneous literary, historical and scientific works, pamphlets, reports, etc., which were then in the University Library and the title to which had hitherto been vested in the Utah Territorial Library. The actual number of books thus deposited with the University Library could not be accurately ascertained for the reasons above stated.

Shortly after the act of March 13, 1890, was passed, Governor A. L. Thomas appointed A. H. Nash Territorial Librarian. He held the office until July, 1891, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, Joseph Lippman.

All the law-books and Congressional records which were in the old Utah Library were transferred to the present library-room, No. 13 Wasatch block. These volumes formed the nucleus of the present law library. The act of March 13, 1890, also appropriated \$3000 for the purchase of additional books, and this sum has already been expended in purchasing legal literature, until to-day the library has about 4100 volumes on its shelves. There are complete Supreme Court reports from 24 States and Territories in the Union, and should the next legislature make a liberal appropriation, as is hoped, the balance of the reports from the States could be completed and the library made a most valuable one for reference by the judges and members of the bar in the Territory. The librarian, on March 15 of this year, completed a catalogue of the books which shows a good line of legal text-books, digests, and English and American reports. The library is patronized freely by members of the bar, and the judges of the Supreme Court have found it of invaluable assistance in preparing their opinions and hunting up authorities.

*Vernon, Conn.* The town recently voted to appropriate \$40,000 for a new public high school building on a lot owned by the town in the centre of the city. It is now proposed to ask the town to buy the adjoining lot for \$1500 and erect a more costly building, to include a free public library. The city has a legacy of \$10,000, left by the late George Maxwell for a public library, provided the town raise \$10,000 additional.

*Weymouth (Mass.) P. L.* The public library building and the building adjacent to it were sold at public auction August 22. The library building was sold for \$1395, and the other building was knocked down for \$1215. Both are to be removed within 15 days, when work will be commenced on the new library building to be erected on the present site, which will cost about \$22,000.

#### FOREIGN.

*Brechin, N. B.* £3000 has been promised by an anonymous donor towards the erection of the free library which is to be commenced shortly. — *Ath.*

*Guatemala.* It is stated in the South American papers that the valuable library of the late Dr. Fernando Cruz, formerly Minister of Guatemala to the United States, has been bought for

addition to the Public Library at Guatemala. The amount is stated to be \$300,000, or about £50,000, but this figure seems to be doubtful. — *Ath.*, Aug. 1.

*London Actors' Association.* The Association contemplates the formation of a theatrical library.

*London, Parish of St. George's, Hanover Sq.* Competition for a public library. (In the *Builder*, July 25, p. 62, 63.)

The *Builder* is not pleased that the Public Library Commissioners did not ask the advice of an architect in deciding which was the best among the six designs, and does not think that they took the best. Three of the designs are described. It is pleasant to see the designs judged by their utility and little reference made to the elevation.

*Peterhead, Eng.* Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, of New York, were at Peterhead, Aug. 8, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of a public library. Mr. Carnegie gave £1000 toward the funds. A great demonstration was held in their honor and was attended by 800 to 1000 people.

Mrs. Carnegie laid the stone, and Mr. Carnegie, replying to a vote of thanks accorded to his wife, said that the English and American flags, prominently displayed before him, were being carried side by side peacefully in Behring Sea, and the time would shortly come to pass when the two branches of the English-speaking race would stand shoulder to shoulder and hold in their hands the peace of the world.

*Vatican L.* Under the great hall of the Vatican Library, which is well known to those who have been to Rome, there is another of the same size that has hitherto been the Armory. Its contents have now been removed; and in it have been placed about 185,000 printed books, which formerly filled the Borgia and other rooms situated at a considerable distance from the reading-room.

For the convenience of readers in the library and those admitted to the Vatican Archives, one section of the new hall is filled with books of reference, those selected being such as serve the purpose of scholars working at mss. The plan of the reference library resembles that of the ms. department at Paris, but is of a more international character, and includes all publications sent by foreign governments, learned societies, and literary clubs. The Pope has specially intended that the books in the reference library should represent the literature of all nations, and that students coming to work at the Vatican should find there the publications of their own countries.

Besides these there are (1) the Mai collection, (2) the old papal library of printed books, (3) the Palatine library from Heidelberg, (4) the Fulvio Orsini collection, (5) that of Cardinal Zelada, (6) that of Capponi (containing Italian literature), (7) that of Cicognara (books on the history of art), (8) all subsequent historical collections down to that of Ruland, librarian of Würzburg.

The Palatine library is partly catalogued by Mr. Stevenson, Jr., in three volumes, printed at the Vatican. The Orsini collection has been described by Nolhac. — *W. B. in Acad.*

### Librarians.

ORR, Charles, late with Taylor, Austin & Co., of Cleveland, with which company he has been since its organization, and formerly of Brentano's, of New York City, has been appointed librarian of Case Library and entered upon his duties Aug. 1.

### Cataloging and Classification.

THE HARTFORD LIBRARY ASSOC.'s Bulletin for July contains a note, "Books on American history used in the Hartford schools," and a list of "Aids and guides for readers" including a list of the subjects in which bibliographical notes have appeared in the Bulletin since March, 1879.

JERSEY CITY (*N. J.*) F. P. L. Alphabetical finding list. Aug. 1. Jersey City, 1891. [4] l. + 239 p. O.

Authors, titles, and subjects.

LOS ANGELES (*Cal.*) P. L. Author list of fiction. April. Los A., 1891. 19 p. O. Manila paper.

LOS ANGELES (*Cal.*) P. L. Author list of juvenile books. June. Los A., 1891. 17 p. O. Manila paper.

LOS ANGELES (*Cal.*) P. L. Finding list. Jan. Los A., 1891. 177 p. O.

Catalogs in dictionary style about 18,000 vols. Added are special lists of "Bibliography" and "General cyclopedias, dictionaries, etc.," and "Reference periodicals," with an appendix, "Classification and catalogue."

SAN FRANCISCO F. P. L. Classified English prose fiction, including translations and juvenile works, with notes and index to subject-references. San F., 1891. 8 — 306 p. O.

"Mr. Cheney has followed the example of the Boston Public Library, but has gone further, and has taken a most decided step towards bringing the library into closer relationship with the schools, as well as towards making the innate childish love of 'a story' lead to more solid and enduring reading. The classification is very varied, as into biographical stories, ghost stories, legal tales, musical novels, tales of the useful arts, etc.; but the geographical subdivisions are most insisted upon. Under each topic, as Animals, Astronomy, Aërial voyages, there are references to serious works in the same library, carefully selected; under each country, references to books of travel and history; under the more important authors, references to biographies or critical appreciation of them. If we have here and there detected an obvious omission, it is to be set down, we have little doubt, to the absence



of the work from the general collection. Countries, like Austria, England, or (most minutely) the United States, and famous towns, like Boston, have the appropriate novels arranged under them by periods, institutions (slavery), events (the civil war), etc. The contents of books of short stories are stated, and the Seaside library (pocket edition) is catalogued in full. There are constant references to Poole's Index and to bibliographies. A single title, like Harriet Martineau's tales in illustration of political economy, often serves to introduce an important section, and it is surprising, in the sum, to see to how large a range of human knowledge a clue is here afforded. We must not overlook the rubric Books and readings, with its list of authors for boys, for girls, for little ones; and lists of good books for the young, not a few. But, above all, the rubric Literature deserves admiration for its orderly conspectus and full indications. It fills ten pages or twenty columns of fine print, and passes in review the literature of every nation. To crown the whole, there is a topical index. The proper complement of this almost ideal performance is found in Mr. W. M. Griswold's 'Descriptive lists of novels and tales,' which, as far as they go, furnish a criterion between good and bad in the mass of fiction which Mr. Cheney has been at such pains to register. Both these guides should find a place in every public library, large or small."—*Nation*, Sept. 3.

## FULL NAMES.

Supplied by *Harvard College Library*.

Bachelor, Nahum Josiah (Lakes and summer resorts in New Hampshire);

Flower, Frank Abial (The eye of the Northwest);

Letchworth, W: Pryor (The insane in foreign countries);

Newhall, C: Steadman (The trees of north-eastern America).

## CHANGED TITLES.

Furnished by *Gardner M. Jones, Libn. Salem Public Library*.

Beers' "Initial studies in American letters," 1891, is the same as his "An outline sketch of American literature," 1887, with the addition of an "appendix" of selections. There is nothing about the work to indicate that it has appeared before, and the new copyright entry would prevent all suspicion. If this were done by the wicked lay bookseller it would be called a fraud, but I suppose it is all right when coming from the pious Chautauqua Press. Seriously, those who set themselves up to be leaders in the education of the American people should be above such deceitful methods. It can only react to their own disadvantage.

E. P. Dutton & Co., have just published "Princess Girklin; or, The fairy thimble, by Ida Preston Nichols, and other fairy tales by Mary De Morgan." The "other fairy tales," occupying 188 out of the 256 pages of the book, prove to be those published by Dutton in 1876 under the title of "On a pincushion." Here, also there is nothing to call the attention of the public to the fact that this part of the work has been previously published.

## Bibliography.

ALESSANDRINI, P. La biblioteca popolare di Trento, 1869-89. Borgo, G. Marchetto, 1891. 174 p. S.

BRADFORD, Dr. T: L., has compiled a "Homœopathic bibliography of the United States," covering the years from 1825 to 1891 inclusive, containing alphabetical lists of homœopathic books, magazines, and pamphlets. Also condensed statements, data, and histories of the homœopathic societies, colleges, hospitals, asylums, homes, dispensaries, pharmacies, publishers, directories, legislation, principal books written against homœopathy, and homœopathic libraries, now or at any time existent in the United States. Great pains have been taken and no expense spared to make this book thoroughly accurate and representative. The publishers, Boericke & Tafel, will not undertake its issue until a sufficient number of subscribers has been secured to insure them against pecuniary loss. The work will contain between 400 and 500 octavo pages.

CHANNING CLUB, Boston. Books for boys, approved and recommended by a committee of the Club: publications of 1888. *n.p., n.d.* [1]+19+[1] p. T.

FROMM, Dr. E. Die Literatur über die Thermenstation Aachen seit der Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts. Aachen, Barth, 1891. 6+32 p. O.

FUMAGALLI, Giuseppe. Il primo anno del corso di bibliografia pratica per i commessi librai aperto in Milano. Milano, tipog. Pagnoni, 1891. 8 p. D.

Includes a detailed program of the course.

GRISWOLD W: M. Descriptive list of romantic novels. Camb., Mass., W: M. Griswold, 1890 [1891]. 318 p. O.

I MIGLIORI libri italiana, consigliati da cento illustri contemporanei. Milano, Ulrico Hoepli, 1892. 19+434 p. 16°. *net*, 2 marks.

*Contents:* Consigli e giudizi di cento illustri contemporanei italiani. — Indice classificato delle più ragguardevoli pubblicazioni italiane ancora in commercio, con l'aggiunta di poche notevolissime di antiquaria: 1. Enciclopedia e bibliografia. 2. Scienze religiose. 3. Scienze filosofiche. 4. Scienze giuridiche. 5. Scienze politiche, economiche e sociali. 6. Scienze naturali, fisiche e chimiche. 7. Matematiche pure ed applicate. 8. Scienze mediche. 9. Geografia, etnografia e viaggi. 10. Storia e scienze ausiliarie. 11. Letteratura. 12. Belle arti. 13. Arti utili. — Indice alfabetico delle opere e dei soggetti.

Ulrico Hoepli, the scholarly antiquarian bookseller of Milan, whose bibliographical labors are widely known, has just published a most interesting and valuable contribution to Italian bibliography. To meet the increasing demand for information as to the best books in Italian on various subjects, M. Hoepli decided to follow the

example of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and the publishers of "Die besten Bücher aller Zeiten und Literaturen," and addressed a circular to a hundred of the best known literary men and scholars of Italy, in which he invited their opinions as to which they considered the best books in the various departments of Italian literature. As a result he has collected about 5,000 titles of ancient and modern publications. The titles are given first under subject headings, and again in one alphabet. Preceding the list are given the replies of the contributors, including their opinions and criticism. In the absence of a satisfactory general Italian bibliography M. Hoepli's work will be a welcome one to librarians and booksellers. — *Publishers' weekly*.

MANNO, Ant. *Bibliografia di Casale Monferrato*. Torino, G. B. Paravia, 1891. 49 p. O.

HOWE, Daniel Wait. Descriptive catalogue of the official publications of the territory and State of Indiana, 1800-90, incl. references to the laws establishing the various state offices and institutions, and an index to the official reports. Indianapolis, 1890. 5+91 p. O.

LANE, W. C. Additions to the Dante collection in Harvard College Library, May 1, 1890 - May 1, 1891. (Pages 15 - 31 of DANTE SOCIETY, 10th annual report. 1891. O.)

RICHTER, P. E. Verzeichniss der Bibliotheken mit gegen 50,000 und mehr Bänden. 1: Deutschland, Oesterreich Ungarn, Schweiz, England, Nord-Amerika. Lpz., Helden, 1891. 27 p. O.

SALVI, Giovanni. Sulla pubblica biblioteca della città di Voghera. Voghera, tip. Rusconi-Gavi, 1891. 17 p.

VITALE, Ant. Opere editte ed inedite di autori natini nel Lagonegrese. Potenza, Pomarici, 1891. 15+90 p. O.

### Anonymous and Pseudonyms.

All the Dicts. of Pseudonyms and all the Catalogues enter the name *Hesba Stretton* as the pseud. of Hannah Smith. But one of the personal friends of the lady in question tells me that this is an error, and that her true name is Sarah Stretton. — J. N. LARNED.

Col. Richard Henry Savage, a name which appears on the title-page of that clever novel, "My official wife," recently published by the Home Publishing Co., belongs to a live man, and is not one of the literary disguises of Mr. Archibald Clavering Gunter. Col. Savage is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and late Lieut. Corps Engineers U. S. A. He served on Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield's staff during the late war, and was at one time on the staff of the ex-Khedive of Egypt. At present he is a resident of New York City.

*We, Von Ardens*, by Edith Douglas, Chicago, 1881, is attributed by Cushing, "Initials and pseudonyms, 1st series," Boston, and the Chicago and Milwaukee Public Libraries, to Clara Louise Burnham in error. Mrs. Burnham herself is authority for the statement that she has not written it and has no pseudonym. — KATE M. HENNEBERRY, *Ass't Libn. Chicago P. L.*

*Von Degen*, the pseudonymous author of "A mystery of the Campagna," is said to be a lady and a sister of F. Marion Crawford. She is married to an officer in the Austrian army, whose name, however, is not Von Degen.

*Furnished by Frank Weitenkamp, Astor Library.*

Edward Feld, ps. under which Bauernfeld brought out his four-act comedy, "*Leichtsin aus Liebe*." — *N. Y. Staats-Zeitung*.

Harry Hazel, ps. of Justin Jones, for many years the editor and publisher of *The Yankee Blade* (Boston). — *N. Y. Herald*.

Karl Adolf, ps. of Carl Selke, Oberbürgermeister of Königsberg, in "Die Schmugglerstochter von Norderney," historischer Roman, 2 v., 1891. — *N. Y. Staats-Zeitung*.

Max Belinsky, ps. of "Yassinsky." — DR. E. J. DILLON in *Review of reviews*, Aug., 1881, p. 100.

Robert Breitenbach, says A. Philippi in the *N. Y. Staats-Zeitung* (July 5), is the pseudonym of Manager Karl Rosenfeld, the author of "Der Zauberlehrling" ("Pupil in magic") and "Das Mikroskop," both plays in the *répertoire* of the German "Liliputian" Co. of actors.

Salomon von Golaw. Friedrich von Logau's works were published in 1654 under the title: "Salomon von Golaw, deutscher Sinngetichte drey Tausend." — *Vide Collector* (N. Y. C.), Feb. 15, 1891.

Taverner, ps. of Alexander Young, of the *Boston Post*, died Mar. 21, '91. — *N. Y. Times*.

[This is an error. Mr. Young was only one of several who wrote in the column over that signature. — C. A. C.]

Laclede, ps. of John Lesperance (1836-'91). — *Boston Transcript*.

### Private Libraries.

#### CHICAGO LIBRARIES.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

"It is impossible to collect a library intelligently until you have first read certain books which treat of the subjects and books which you want to build your library on," said CHARLES J. BARNES, of the American Book Company, who owns one of the most costly and complete private libraries to be found in the West. "I have been studying bibliography for twenty-five years. The first work on books which I read before beginning the collection of my library was given to me by my father when I was 20 years of age. It is called Home's 'Bibliography.' I have now 400



volumes alone which deal with books and printing. It is from a careful study of these books that the foundation for a library is laid. Each book gives you a taste and intelligence on the subject which you want to collect books on. If I was going to write a book on how to get a library I would give a selection of books in my library, which I would advise all to read first, beginning with such as 'An Introduction to the Study of Bibliography' (2 vols.) and Beloe's 'Anecdotes' (6 vols.), following with 'Ames' Typographical Antiquities,' which leads to a desire to know something about the history and art of printing. That can be found in a variety of books, among which are 'Origin of Printing in Europe,' by August Bernard (French); Humphrey's 'History of the Art of Printing,' Hessel's 'Gutenberg,' and the various works of Dibdin and Debure. The next step is the collection of such works as Collier's 'Early English Literature,' Burton's 'Book-Hunter,' Barker's 'Literary Anecdotes,' Dibdin's 'Library Companion.'

"Following a line of reading of that nature comes the collection of catalogues containing the books in the leading private and public libraries of the world, and the standard bibliographical works, like Lowndes, Brunet, Didot, Rich, and Hain. Books of this latter class cover an exhaustive range of subjects; many of them are privately printed and difficult to procure. I have the set of 'Pisauns Praxi's Librorum,' in three volumes. The first book is entitled 'Index Librorum Prohibitorum,' the second volume is known as 'Centuria Librorum Absconditorum,' and the third is 'Catena Librorum Fascendorum.' The contents of these three volumes alone furnish food for the book-worm that cannot be found in any other publication, and give elaborate descriptions of and extracts from Praxi's works that are known only to those few collectors who were fortunate enough to have a set of Praxi's works. I have a few of the books mentioned in the three volumes.

"The book-collector, if he has good taste, will always seek to get perfect copies of books. While a good copy may sell at a high price an indifferent one will not bring in more than one-quarter the sum that a perfect copy commands.

"The early French and English bindings are the richest that have ever been made, and I have some twenty fine specimens of them. The bindings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries bring enormous prices in the European markets. The originals are being extensively reproduced in France and England, and the fac-similes are equal to the old masters of the binding art.

"My department of Americana is very full, most of the rarer books being represented. The books in my lower library are principally bibliographical, religious, and historical. I have 300 volumes, which treat of all the religions of the world, profusely illustrated, and I had to prepare myself for the collection by much study. This department has been collected and culled until each book has a distinct value of its own. I have between 500 and 600 volumes of general historical works, mostly upon European countries, including complete sets of the chronicles of

Froissart, Grafton, Holinshed, Monstrelet, and similar valuable works by Hall, Hardyng, Rastell, Craik, and Richardson.

"I have a collection of 200 titles of the earliest books printed by the Mormons, including two copies of the original Mormon Bible, printed in Palmyra, N. Y., in 1830. Here is a vest-pocket book which is very rare. It is the 'Commandments for the Government of the Church of Christ,' published at Zion (Independence, Mo.) in 1833. While this book was printing the office was demolished by an anti-Mormon mob, and only a few complete sheets escaped destruction. These were secretly folded and bound, but have since disappeared, so that only three copies are known to be in existence now. I bought this one from a Mormon in Missouri for \$50 15 years ago, and I have been offered \$500 for it. The copy is soiled and imperfect, but it is genuine.

"An important part of my library is the collection of early printed books on American history, including accounts of the first English, Spanish, and French voyageurs who visited the coast of America."

Mr. Barnes is the lucky owner of an original copy of "Confessionario Breve," by Alfonso de Molina, printed in the city of Mexico, 1565. It is a book of such rarity that only one other is known to be in existence. So far as can be learned it is the first book which was published in America with wood-cuts, the title-page being in two colors. Among the rarer copies of Americana may be mentioned Smith's description of Virginia (1612), with a superb map of the old colony in black and white, believed to be the finest of its kind in the country; "Smith Advertisements for the Early Planters of New England" (1631), Smith's "History of Virginia" (1624), another edition of the same work (1627), containing original portraits of the Duchess of Richmond and Natoaka (Pocahontas), which were not published with the first edition; "Mourt's Relations" (1632), being an account of the landing and experience of the Pilgrims in the form of a letter written to a London friend; Morton's "New England Memorial" (1639) and his "New England Canaan," and Castell's "Short Discovery of America" (1644); Lundonniere's "History of Florida," printed in Paris, 1586; "History of the Indias and Conquest of Mexico," published by Gomara at Saragossa in 1552; "History of the Conquest of New Spain," by Bernal Diaz, Madrid (1632); Hamor's "Virginia," printed in London, 1615; Mather's and Hubbard's "Indian Wars," the Cambridge and London editions; the Elzevir edition of Boccaccio's "Decameron" (1665). Mr. Barnes' classical department is not large but rich and rare, particularly his French works. A 1769 edition of "Ovid," printed in Paris, contains 141 superb plates and designs, and Mr. Barnes was years in getting it.

GEORGE P. UPTON'S musical library, at No. 2427 South Park Avenue, comprises about 1500 volumes. There are 30 dictionaries and lexicons, including those of Fétis, Riemann, Grove, Brown, Stainer, the sumptuous three-volume dictionary by Champlin, and others. In history it is represented by the works of Bird, Eastcott, Burney (original edition), Hawkins, Naumann,

Royer, North, Engel, Chappel, Rockstri, Macfarren, and others, as well as those by Gould, Hood, Rlter, and others in this country. There are about 150 biographies, covering the entire period from Bach to Wagner. Science is represented by the works of Fétis, Wieck, Taylor, Czerny, Pole, Bosauquet, Richter, Helmholtz, Busby, and other theorists. The principal writers on the opera are Hanslick, Mount Edgumbe, Schloeger, Heath, and Neitzel. In periodicals there are, among others, full sets of the *Harmonicon* and English quarterly musical magazine. It has fine copies of Köchel's, Nottebohm's, Peters', and John's theme catalogues; Hofmeister's *Verzeichniss*; Engel's, Sandy's & Forster's, and Brown's works on instruments; a large collection of opera, oratorio, cantata, and symphony scores; complete sets of libretti; twenty dissertations upon Wagner's music. There is an exhaustive collection of records, books, and programs covering the whole period of music in Chicago and the principal festivals in the United States. Among the rare books in the library are the first edition of "The Beggars' Opera" (1761); Gosson's "Schoole of Abuse" (1579); a letter by Tartini on violin playing; *Treatise on Singing*, by Incedon; the Handel Memorial at Westminster with the Bartolozzi plates; "History of the Academy of Ancient Music"; "Virginia," an opera by Mrs. Plowden (1800); "Rip Van Winkle," by Bristow; "Leonora," by Fry; a collection of Japanese koto music; Jacox's "Bible Music"; Dibdin's "Musical Fair"; Gardner's "Music of Nature"; Avison's "Musical Expression"; Tegner's "Frithjof's Saga," with original music; the "Bullfinch" (1761); "Gude and Godlle Ballates" (1571); Oliver's "Old English Squire"; Roffe's "Handbook of Shakespeare Music"; Sternhold Hopkins' "Psalmody" (1757); Ashton's "Centenary of Ballads." The library also includes a large number of indexed and classified scrap-books, about 300 photographs of artists, most of them personally inscribed, and over a hundred autograph letters and music by artists and composers.

REV. FRANK M. BRISTOL is a genuine bibliophile, but his love is checked and regulated by his means to add to his store of books. His library at 2519 Indiana Avenue is small in comparison with others, but he has been able to secure many curious and valuable books in his tramp through book-collectors' dens in London and other cities. He has an original plan by which he is obtaining a unique collection. In the Rev. Mr. Bristol's library are a little Virgil, given by Dr. Samuel Johnson to George Stevens, the Shakespearean scholar; a scientific work which belonged to Edgar A. Poe; and books containing the autographs of George Cruickshank (1819), John Locke, E. Waller (1674) and Dr. Johnson, showing that the volumes once belonged to these men. Two missals of the fifteenth century make a beautiful little work of considerable value. The colored text, rich illuminations and sacred pictures are all done by hand, principally in red, blue, and embossed gold. He makes a specialty of collecting books that mention Shakespeare before the year 1700.

RODNEY M. WHIPPLE is familiar with all the

choice fishing and hunting grounds of the country. The hobby of his life has been to surround himself with a unique sporting library and rare works relating to other subjects. An hour spent among his books at his home, No. 5121 Washington Avenue, ought to convince any one who has a knowledge of books that Mr. Whipple is not exaggerating when he claims to have the largest and choicest library on hunting and fishing to be found in the United States. A great many rare works are among this collection, which numbers 700 volumes. He also has a large assortment of books on Americana, but they are not of the rarest kind.

"I have books about every fish that swims," said Mr. Whipple, "with pictures of them colored to life, and everything valuable published on the subject of fish, fishing, and hunting. The collection of works about butterflies, trees, birds, nests, eggs, and insects is one of the ornamental features of my library."

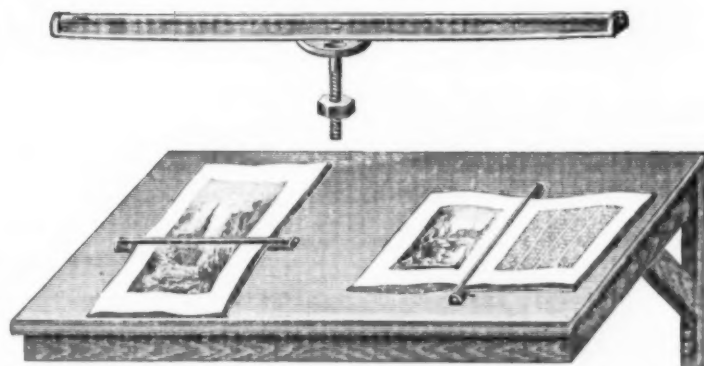
DR. R. N. ISHAM probably possesses a library unexcelled by any other in this city. In his Dearborn Avenue home are to be seen between 5000 and 6000 volumes on every conceivable subject of an interesting character. This does not include the doctor's fine medical library. Dr. Isham has not made a specialty of rare curious or original books, but has collected a useful as well as ornamental library for reading and reference purposes. Most of the books were bought in Chicago, and the library represents an expenditure of many thousand dollars. The doctor, who came to Chicago from his Massachusetts home in 1852, had a large library in his old house on La Salle Ave., near Oak St., but the fire of 1871 turned it into ashes. The work of collecting the present library has been going on since the fire.

A. J. COX, the printer, is proud of his library. It has been the chief occupation of his leisure time for the last 35 or 40 years, and he is still working at it. It is not a large library, but it is a choice one. He has about 2500 volumes altogether, his specialty being Shakespeariana, dramatic and theatrical biographies, plays, and works on tobacco and smoking. He has gathered together several thousand plays, old first editions of Shakespeariana, a great many illustrated books on biographical, historical, biological, and scientific subjects and general literature, both ancient and modern. He has some valuable books relating to plays and dramas, which were published in the sixteenth century. 200 volumes of his library relate to tobacco, its use and abuse, history and cultivation of the leaf, pipes, smoking, cigars, and snuff. One of these books has a Latin title, and is more than worth its weight in gold. It was published in the early part of the seventeenth century, and was one of the first books which mentioned the use of tobacco as a medicine. This was one of the earliest uses to which tobacco was put. Many authors at that time—as can be gleaned from a glance at Mr. Cox's collection—advocated the use of tobacco as a cure for various disorders. One writer calls it a "head purge." From these books it can be learned that tobacco was first used in a finely-powdered form and smoked through a pipe.

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Librarians who have any wants or queries in the way of sets, partial sets, or odd volumes of magazines, proceedings of societies, government or municipal reports, or other series, American or foreign, are invited to correspond on the subject with

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Enoch Pratt Free Library.  
Free Public Library, Newark, N. J.  
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Johns Hopkins University.  
Mercantile Library Association, N. Y.  
Miami University.  
N. Y. State Library.  
N. Y. Hospital Library.  
Ohio State University.  
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
Public Library, Cincinnati, O.  
Public Library, Cleveland, O.  
Public Library, Minneapolis.  
Reynolds Library.  
State Library of Connecticut.

State University of Iowa.  
State University of Kansas.  
State University of Nebraska.  
Theol. Seminary, Hartford, Conn.  
Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.  
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MELVIL DEWEY, *Director of N. Y. State Library, Albany, N. Y.*

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